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Parliament endorses investment law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday endorsed a new investment promotion law that offers high incentives for capital. Wednesday's law was passed by acclamation in the 80-seat Parliament. Nine deputies were absent from the four-hour debate in which Islamist deputies rejected the law. The new law offers up to 75 per cent reductions in taxes for businesses that would be set up in underdeveloped areas in the Kingdom, provides further exemptions for hospitals and hotels, allows investors exemptions from government-imposed restrictions on financial transactions, gives Arab and non-Arab investors equal rights to Joordanians and calls for setting up three institutions that will be responsible for promoting investment and for helping mitigate hureaucratic procedures.

Scattered protests in Sudanese capital

KHARTOUM (AP) — Scattered protests reportedly erupted in Khartoum on Wednesday in the third day of demonstrations, mainly by students, that have left at least two dead and many injured. Students gathered in Omdurman, a district of Khartoum, shouting anti-government slogans and demanding the release of students arrested earlier, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said. Police fired tear-gas, but there were no immediate reports of injuries. Protests also broke out at Khartoum University, a traditional hotbed of unrest, the agency said. Police surrounded the campus and shot one student, who was taken to a hospital, MENA said. The clashes followed a warning Tuesday by the Interior Ministry that it would take strong actions to curb anti-government demonstrators. The official Sudan News Agency reported Wednesday that some 300 detainees, mainly vagabonds and jobless, took advantage of the chaos in the Kobber prison in central Khartoum.

Abdul Meguid: Peace before cooperation

CAIRO (AP) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Wednesday there would be no Arab economic cooperation with Israel until there is a comprehensive Middle East peace. He also urged that Arab countries abolish all restrictions on bilateral trade and set up an Arab trading alliance. "Cooperation between Arab countries should take place before cooperation with Israel," Dr. Abdul Meguid told a meeting of Arab economic and finance ministers. He added: "Israel has to realise that cooperation with it is closely linked to solving all pending political issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause and establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the region."

Israel, S. Africa sign agreement

TEL AVIV (AFP) — South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo signed Wednesday a cooperation accord with Israel setting up joint committees on science, culture, trade, ecology and agriculture. "Our interest in bilateral relations is to ensure to build relations that can benefit our peoples," he told reporters after talks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres. "We just concluded an agreement that is going to deepen our relations. We invited Israel to participate to our effort of construction," he said. He is to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the autonomous Gaza Strip on Friday and sign a similar cooperation agreement. According to Israel radio, Mr. Nzo told Mr. Peres he intended to meet Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem. Mr. Peres sought to dissuade Mr. Nzo, the radio reported.

First Israeli-Arab ambassador named

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli Arab has been named an ambassador for the first time in Israel's 47-year history, the foreign ministry said Wednesday. Ali Adeeb Yahya, a lecturer in education at Tel Aviv University, will serve as ambassador to Finland. A resident of Kufr Karaa in northern Israel, the 49-year-old Yahya also teaches Arabic to Israeli Jews and Hebrew to Palestinians from the occupied territories. Ulpan Akiva, the residential language school in Netanya where he teaches, was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 and 1993 for its work in Arab-Israeli relations. In 1986.

Iraq prepares for Saddam referendum

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi authorities have begun preparing for the country's first referendum to reelect Saddam Hussein as president for seven years, official newspapers said Wednesday. The top government body organising the referendum on Tuesday approved the format of voter registration cards and ballots and has begun drawing up electoral lists in the provinces, they said. No date has been set for the referendum which was announced last week, although it must be held within 60 days from Sunday when parliament approved President Saddam as the sole candidate. Several tribes staged more rallies in support of President Saddam Hussein, while the workers federation and two Kurdish groups loyal to the government gave him their endorsements.

Settler arrested in murder of Arab

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli police on Wednesday arrested the head of an extreme right-wing Jewish group which claimed responsibility for killing a Palestinian, the authorities said. A warrant for the arrest of Avishai Raviv, leader of Eyal, was issued following the murder Friday in Halhoul, on the edge of the West Bank town of Hebron.

King, Qatar emir review Iraq events, peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, on Wednesday discussed the Middle East situation, bilateral relations and the latest developments in Iraq following the defection of a high-ranking Iraqi official to Jordan last month.

Also expected to have figured high in the four-hour meeting between the King and Sheikh Hamad, both of whom later flew to Oman separately to meet with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id, was an emerging agreement under which Jordan will be a key transit point for Qatar gas pumped to the Mediterranean.

According to sources, King Hussein and Sheikh Hamad "agreed on the importance of preserving the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty" of Iraq. They also took note that the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's new U.N.-drawn borders last year was a "step in the positive direction" leading to the implementation of the related United Nations Security Council resolutions and the lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq.

Qatar, which follows a independent foreign policy not necessarily endorsed by its neighbours in the Gulf, was the first country from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to normalise ties with Iraq following the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

Sheikh Hamad said this week in an interview with a London-based television station that his country stood ready to receive Iraqi defector Hussein Kamel, former Iraqi minister of industry, who fled to Jordan on Aug. 8 and was given asylum here along with his brother, Saddam Kamel and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The King and Sheikh Hammad also discussed the Middle East peace process and "steps that are to be taken to facilitate the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in a broader sense," said the source without elaboration.

The talks were held at the Raghadan Palace in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Talal, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and industry and trade.

On the Qatari side, the meeting was attended by Finance Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, Foreign Minister Jassim Ben Jaber Al Thani and the Qatari ambassador to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides "emphasised the need to continue their cooperation and coordination in order to crystallise a new vision of Arab solidarity on sound and clear basis."

The King conferred upon the Qatari emir Al Hussein Ben Ali Medal and hosted a lunch in his honour.

The Qatari leader said the visit was an affirmation of the close ties between the two countries and voiced confidence that the visit would further enhance bilateral relations.

Sheikh Jassim Ben Jaber Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister, told Jordan Television that Qatar and Jordan were discussing the construction of a pipeline that would carry Qatari natural gas to the Kingdom and from here on to the Mediterranean.

Qatar has said it is ready to supply natural gas to Israel and officials from the two sides have met and discussed the issue.

The pipeline project "will be discussed at the economic summit in Amman," said Sheikh Jassim, referring to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held here Oct. 29-31.

Sheikh Jassim will lead the Qatari delegation to the summit.

His Majesty King Hussein with Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani upon the Qatari leader's arrival here for a brief visit on Wednesday (photo by Yousef Allan)

Meeting fails to resolve conflict over 'displaced'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab and Israeli delegations on Wednesday failed to make progress on defining which Palestinians "displaced" during the 1967 Middle East war were eligible for repatriation to their homeland, officials said.

After two days of meetings, a technical committee comprising officials from Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Egypt and Jordan could not reach agreement on the issue, the officials said.

The talks reached a deadlock when Israel insisted that "displaced" Palestinians only included those who left the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the 1967 war and those who were outside the West Bank and Gaza when the war broke out and could not return to their homes.

Badri Hammam, head of the Egyptian delegation, said: "there are still different standpoints, and we are trying to reach a common understanding."

Jordan's chief negotiator Mohammad Shahnkeri said: "New ideas and proposals were presented by the four parties" which would be discussed at their next meeting in Israel on Nov. 6 and 7.

The Arab negotiators agreed that "displaced" Palestinians should include all those who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 war as well as those who were outside and could not return because of the war, officials said.

"No progress has achieved," Zuhdi Saeed, chief Palestinian delegate, said. "The Israelis did not respond to our demands..."

Yosef Hadas, head of the Israeli delegation, said: "I told them, we are not magicians. We can't give instant solutions. It is better to have problems now than wrapping up an ambiguous deal that will generate problems later."

"The definition is not the only problem. Even if we agree on that, we still have the serious problem of security and job creation when the displaced return to their homes," he told the Associated Press.

The Amman meeting was the fourth on the "displaced" since March 7, when the foreign ministers of the four parties met in Amman but failed to make headway after Israel resisted demands for a commitment to a timetable for the repatriation of the "displaced."

The Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian technical committee was set up by the foreign ministers.

The term "displaced" is used for the 1967 war, while Palestinian "refugees" are considered to be those who left their homes when Israel was proclaimed in 1948.

Israel and the PLO are due to discuss the fate of the "refugees" in 1996.

Settlers rampage through Hebron

HEBRON (Agencies) — Israel's army imposed a curfew in downtown Hebron on Wednesday Jewish settlers went on a rampage and clashed with Palestinian youths in which tear-gas wafted into a Arab nursery school, overcoming 11 infants and toddlers.

The clashes came on the second anniversary of the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord. Rising violence in the city in recent days forced a delay in negotiations that had been scheduled for Wednesday between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The scuffles began outside a Palestinian elementary school between armed Jewish settlers and Palestinian parents, who screamed threats and spat at each other. The school has been the focus of clashes since last Sunday, with Palestinians flying the Palestinian flag and settlers trying to take it down.

As rumours spread that schoolgirls had been hurt by settlers, Palestinian youths armed with stones and bottles attacked Israeli soldiers, who responded with rubber bullets, tear-gas and concussion grenades. The army clamped a curfew on downtown Hebron.

As soldiers chased stone throwers through the streets in the city centre, a canister of tear-gas landed outside a private day care centre with 35 infants and toddlers inside. Gas drifted inside the windows of centre.

Eleven children were taken to nearby Alia Hospital. Officials said they were treated for tear-gas inhalation and released.

It was the third time this week Jewish settlers and Palestinian had clashed at the school in Hebron, a traditional flashpoint of violence.

On Sunday, Palestinians said settlers beat the headmistress and threw empty bottles, hurting at least four schoolgirls. On Monday, the army removed the Palestinian flag from the school and warned officials not to raise it again.

On Wednesday, witnesses said settlers spray-painted stars of David on neighbouring buildings and strewed rubbish around the site.

Some 400 Jews live among more than 120,000 Palestinians in the heart of the city where a settler massacred at least 30 Palestinian worshippers in February 1994.

The clashes provoked angry outbursts from Palestinian residents.

"Is this the peace of Arafat?" shouted an elderly man wearing a white turban and waving a walking stick. "This is the celebration of the Oslo agreement?"

He referred to the Israel-PLO accord, worked out in secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway, and signed Sept. 13, 1993 on the White House lawn.

Hebron is the main obstacle in fulfilling the second stage of the accord to expand autonomy to the West Bank, originally scheduled to begin in July 1994.

An Israeli official who demanded anonymity said a planned meeting Wednesday between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Arafat to try to resolve the Hebron issue had been postponed until at least Saturday night.

Israel wants to retain control over Hebron to protect the settlers. The PLO insists on an army pullout similar to the full withdrawal planned for other Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

Also Wednesday, a member of the militant group Hamas was killed when a bomb he was making blew up in the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip, Palestinian police said.

Gaza police commander Ghazi Jabali said the dead man, 34-year-old Ibrahim Nafar of Gaza City, was wanted by Palestinian police for membership in the military wing of Hamas.

Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace process, has claimed responsibility for suicide bombings that have killed scores of Israelis.

Mr. Peres said talks were going ahead despite Israeli anger over the PLO's handling of two suspected killers of Jews.

The Palestinians on Tuesday jailed the men for 12 years each in self-ruled Jericho, effectively blocking their extradition to the Jewish state and raising Israeli fears that self-rule areas would offer refuge to killers.

"What the Palestinians did doesn't violate the agreement from a formal standpoint," Mr. Peres said of the PLO's decision to jail two Arab suspects in Palestinian-ruled Jericho sought by Israel for trial in the Jewish state.

Under the Israel-PLO peace deal that established self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, the PLO was not obliged to extradite suspected guerrillas while they were jailed in self-rule areas, Mr. Peres said.

He said Israel would demand they be handed over when their prison terms ended.

A Palestinian runs with a fainted schoolgirl from Cordoba School to an ambulance on Wednesday after a group of Jewish settlers entered the school in a rampage (AFP photo)

King, Queen visit Salalah and condole Sultan over Zawawi

SALALAH (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Wednesday offered condolences to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id over the death of Omani Deputy Prime Minister Qais Abdul Moneim Zawawi in a car accident and congratulated Sultan Qaboos on his escape from the same accident.

The King and Queen, who arrived here late Wednesday, were accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal, Princess Aisheh and Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem who also conveyed their condolences to Sultan Qaboos and the Zawawi family and congratulated the Sultan on his escape.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sultan Qaboos thanked the King for his personal visit.

Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, who was in Amman earlier in the day for talks with King Hussein, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as well as Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah also visited Salalah, 1,000 kilometres south of Muscat, the Omani capital, for the same purpose. Also visiting Salalah were delegations from the United Arab Emirates.

The King, Queen Noor and the delegation accompanying them were received upon arrival by Thweini Ben Shihab Al Sa'id, a personal representative of Sultan Qaboos and Fakr Ben Taimour Al Sai'd, deputy prime minister, and members of the Omani royal court and cabinet as well as senior officials.

The King, Queen Noor and the delegation were expected to fly home early Thursday.

Sultan Qaboos emerged unhurt from Monday's accident but Zawawi died. According to an Omani royal court statement, the accident occurred when a high-speed Land Cruiser slammed into the back of a car that Sultan Qaboos was driving. Zawawi was sitting in the back seat of the car, the statement said.

Sultan Qaboos had stopped his car to hear the grievances of an Omani who had flagged him down as he was driving through Salalah as is customary for the ruler, reports said.

In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure for Oman.

The Crown Prince also sent Sultan Qaboos a cable congratulating him on his escape from the accident and extending condolences Zawawi's death. He also sent a cable of condolences to Alawi Ben Qais Zawawi.

Serbs lose town to Bosnians, Croats

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces appear to have captured the central Bosnia town of Donji Vakuf from Bosnian Serb troops and put thousands of Serbs to flight, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

The loss of the town, if confirmed, would be a fresh blow to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) already reeling from a two-week aerial pounding by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) which has badly damaged its communications and missile defences.

Bosnian government forces and their Croat allies have taken advantage of Serb disarray to launch fresh offensives in central and northern Bosnia and made considerable gains.

"It would appear that the town of Donji Vakuf has fallen to these forces," U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi told reporters in Zagreb.

Up to 8,000 Serb refugees were reported to be trying to reach Jajce, north of Donji Vakuf, which is still in Serb hands.

Croatian television said Croatian troops had captured the town of Sipovo in the same region on Tuesday while government troops captured the all-weather road between mainly-Muslim Tuzla and Zenica to the north.

As a diplomatic row between Russia and the United States over NATO intervention raged on, the U.N. military commander in Bosnia, General Rupert Smith, pressed for no let-up in the bombing campaign until the BSA took its siege guns away from Sarajevo.

His spokesman said in the Bosnian capital: "It is (Smith's) view that the air operation should continue and he's making that known quite firmly through his chain of command."

BSA commander General Ratko Mladic has refused to withdraw his guns and tanks, ensuring continued attacks by U.S.-led warplanes and missiles.

But U.N. sources said more junior Serb commanders had been in touch with peacekeepers seeking respite from the heaviest pummelling they have suffered during 3½ years of war against weaker Muslim foes.

An accusation by Russian President Boris Yeltsin that NATO was inflicting genocide on the Serbs was undermined by the Bosnian Serb "President," Radovan Karadzic.

He told Reuters Television at Mrkonjic Grad in central Bosnia on Tuesday: "We have suffered very few civilian casualties from NATO aircraft and from enemy artillery."

Mr. Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton exchanged messages in an attempt to defuse the disagreement over NATO which is threatening to destabilise relations between Moscow and Washington.

The Russian leader's press office said the messages stressed the need for a quick settlement.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke was due in Belgrade on Wednesday for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who is negotiating with international mediators on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr. Holbrooke played a major role in securing a breakthrough agreement at peace talks in Geneva last Friday involving the parties in the Yugoslav crisis.

U.S. ambassadors prepare ground ahead of summit

NEW YORK (USIA) — The U.S. ambassadors to five Middle Eastern states met with key U.S. business leaders here Monday to talk about the new commercial opportunities which peace and economic reform are making possible in the region.

The special conference was organised by the Commerce Department and the Business Council for International Understanding in preparation for the Amman economic Summit, which will take place in the Jordanian capital the last three days in October. The ambassadors will speak at similar meetings in Chicago and Houston later this week.

The ambassadors all stressed their embassies' commitment to helping U.S. companies invest in the region and each urged the businessmen to come to the Summit to learn more about the opportunities.

"There's been an enormous change in the region," Edward Walker, U.S. ambassador to Egypt, said. The Egyptian people feel that peace will bring economic growth to the region, and they want to take part in the process, he said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is now considering a host of new pro-business measures, which have sent "extremely strong signals" to the private sector, Mr. Walker added.

On the security side, there has also been "a major change" in Egypt, he stated, noting his "enormous confidence" in the government's ability to keep terrorism under control.

Islamic fundamentalism, however, still poses potential difficulties for the country, the ambassador said. For that reason, "it is critical for Egypt to grow" and surmount the economic problems on which fundamentalism feeds. Recognition of this fact has proved "a major stimulant" to the government's new commitment to economic reform, he added.

A key sign of Mr. Mubarak's interest in creating a more business-friendly environment is the appointment of his son to the President's Council, a grouping of business and government leaders who discuss ways to promote growth and commercial opportunities.

Asked to comment on a report that certain congressmen may be considering cutting American assistance to Egypt, Mr. Walker said that it "would be the biggest mistake they could make."

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, also stressed the new business opportunities which are emerging in Israel and the core Middle East as a result of the peace process. While there had been reason to believe the heartland of the region was hostile to business, "all that is changing and is changing rapidly," he stated.

The Middle East has now become a "market of great opportunity," Mr. Indyk said, urging those present to come to the summit. "The whole idea of an integrated Middle East market is opening up before our eyes."

According to Mr. Indyk, the Israeli economic climate "received a tremendous boost" from signing the declaration of principles with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September 1993.

Israel's gross national product is $80,000 million per year and growing at a rate of eight per cent this year, he said. U.S. trade with Israel was valued at $10,000 million last year, he added.

Foreign investment will be needed as Israel upgrades its infrastructure, Mr. Indyk said. Among the areas where he sees the most potential for U.S. investors are telecommunications, power generation, hotel development and port and airport expansion.

Mr. Indyk also noted that the Israelis are increasingly interested in U.S. goods, noting the great popularity of retailers like Toys R Us and Ace Hardware which have recently opened stores in the country.

With the agreement to transfer more Israeli authority over the West Bank to the Palestinians, something he expected would take place next week, the process will have "gone beyond the point of no return," Mr. Indyk stated.

At the same time, he noted, it is very important that countries which have made peace see tangible results. The United States, he added, will remain "actively engaged" in seeing that they do.

Wesley Egan, U.S. ambassador to Jordan, pointed to the "extraordinary and very dynamic change" which the Hashemite Kingdom has undergone since signing its peace treaty with Israel last October. The Jordanian economy grew by 5.5 per cent last year, Mr. Egan said, while its debt burden fell considerably.

At the same time, the country is going through "an intense process" of economic restructuring which should lead to a new investment code and a sharp reduction in the public sector. All of this should translate into new opportunities for American investment. Key areas are telecommunications, financial services and major infrastructure projects.

Asked why Syria and Lebanon were not attending the Amman summit, Mr. Egan replied that it was their choice and that the United States "would be delighted" if they participated.

In contrast to other parts of the Middle East, the United States has long had substantial investment opportunities in Kuwait, Ambassador Ryan Crocker commented. There are already some 900 American companies present in the country and the market is "by no means saturated," he said. Indeed, there remains "intense interest in (products) 'Made in USA,'" he said, adding he anticipated some $15,000 million in new business over the next few years in "everything from petrochemicals to pizza."

In addition to petroleum and defence equipment, there will be "multi-billion dollar opportunities" for U.S. companies in telecommunications, housing, power generation and health care, he said.

Mr. Crocker linked Kuwaiti participation at the Amman Summit to a strong U.S. presence there. Kuwaiti businessmen will probably take their cues from U.S. companies, he commented.

The American ambassador to Saudi Arabia, former Mississippi Governor Raymond Mabus, began by noting the 60-year trading relationship between the U.S. and the kingdom. Not only do the Saudis constitute the largest market for U.S. defence equipment, he said, but they also purchased more than $1,500 million worth of computers last year and more American-made automobiles than any other nation.

In its own quiet way, Saudi Arabia has "been supportive of the peace process," Mr. Mabus said, noting that the kingdom convinced the other Gulf countries to eliminate the secondary and tertiary aspects of the boycott against Israel.

Christopher says Israel-Syria effort is not abandoned

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher acknowledged on Tuesday that Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations had "slowed down" but insisted that he had not abandoned his mediation efforts.

In an interview with wire service and radio reporters, Mr. Christopher also asserted that "considerable progress" could be made on the Israeli-Syrian front before year's end but he did not explain the basis for his assessment which seems more optimistic than recent developments would warrant.

The present is not an "up period" in the negotiations but "no we have not given up. We are determined to try to help the parties make progress," he told reporters.

Mr. Christopher, who has made the search for a comprehensive Mideast peace a main focus of his tenure, last undertook a peace mission to the region in June.

At that time, he and other U.S. officials were extremely upbeat and stressed the need for Syria and Israel to make major strides in the next few months before presidential elections in Israel and the United States interfere with the process.

But a timetable for negotiations set at that time has not been complied with and some have argued the process is at a dead end.

Mr. Christopher, who at one point had expected to return to the region this week, said "we continue to try to find the right moment in which to re-engage by my travel to the region."

He also said he continues to meet with Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington, D.C.

"Although we are in a period in which the process has slowed down I nevertheless feel that considerable progress can be made between now and the end of the year and ought to be made, must be made," he said.

"I hope that energised by conversations that I'll be having between now and the end of the month that we'll be back in a position where that track will become very active again," he added.

Mr. Christopher is expected to hold talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa when he is in New York the week of Sept. 24 for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly.

Zanoun urges more active American role

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A prominent Palestinian leader urged the United States to take "a more active role" in the sputtering Palestinian-Israeli negotiations dealing with the expansion of Palestinian national authority to the West Bank.

Salim Al Zanoun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), told a Washington audience Tuesday that he was visiting with Majority Leader Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) later that day to urge that Congress not "fall victim" to machinations of the Israeli opposition.

The visiting Palestinian legislator is in Washington on a private trip after participating in the meeting of the World Parliamentary Union in New York on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. He spoke at the National Association of Arab Americans' Foundation.

The Gaza-boro Palestinian leader was referring in his remarks to the cities of Hebron and Jerusalem, the former a major stumbling block in the current negotiations on the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord, and the latter, an issue which both sides agreed to leave for final-phase negotiations, due to begin in a year's time.

"We hope the United States would intervene in finding a solution to the continuing problem over the city of Hebron where the Rabin government insists on the continued presence of 400 Israeli settlers in the heart of the city protected by 2,000 Israeli soldiers," he said.

Additionally, he expressed the hope that the U.S. Congress "would resist rendering the issue of Jerusalem," a final issue, into the domestic election campaign." He said this would "undermine the principled position" of the United States as an arbitrator.

The Palestinian leader praised the United States for "supporting and funding" the Palestinian National Authority when it moved to the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"We do not forget its convening the international donor conference for the purpose of generating support for the Palestinian economy and the fact that it played a leading role as a contributor to the self-government areas," he declared.

Mr. Zanoun complained that Israel has "weakened" the Palestinian National Authority "in the eyes of its constituents and consquently strengthened the opposition" whenever it has closed its borders to Palestinian workers, following any attack on Israelis.

"Yet in spite of this," he continued, "the Palestinian National Authority was able to achieve security and stability in Gaza and Jericho and to prevent operations against Israel from the areas where it had actual control."

Turning to the Israeli demand for elimination of negative articles from the Palestinian national charter, Mr. Zanoun said this was dependent on the satisfaction of the PNC members that the peace process has achieved most of its goals and that it is not subject to delays and attempts to change the Oslo agreement" which codified the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord.

He said the conditions include the expansion of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to the West Bank, the release of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners and the holding of Palestinian elections "under fair, free, and democratic conditions away from the specter of occupation and under appropriate international supervision."

He also said the newly elected members of a proposed West Bank/Gaza council should be allowed to join the Palestine National Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Typhoid strikes Palestinian camp

TYRE (AFP) — Some 150 people have contracted typhoid in one of the most impoverished Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon, doctors said on Wednesday. They blamed the spread of the disease on defective water distribution, rusty pipes and garbage which is piled up for days on the roadside in the Borj Al Slamali refugee camp, which houses about 8,000 people. "Over the past two weeks we found that about 150 people, including four and seven-year-old children, were suffering from unusually high temperatures for no apparent reason," said Palestinian doctor Sanaa Hamadi. "Tests undertaken at a Palestinian Red Crescent hospital in the camp showed they had contracted typhoid," Dr. Hamadi said. Patients have been treated at the camp's tiny 18-bed hospital and at nearby hospitals in Tyre and the Rashidiyeh refugee camp. "Most of the patients have been referred to the Balsam Hospital in Rashidiyeh and other hospitals," said laboratory technician Issam Rabeh. "We have also asked the International Committee of the Red Cross for assistance and they gave us the right medicine," Mr. Rabeh added.

Palestinian poet arrives in Gaza

GAZA (R) — The most prominent Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish, arrived in Gaza on Tuesday after Israel agreed to the visit despite his opposition to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, witnesses said. Mr. Darwish, a member of the PLO Executive Committee who drafted speeches for PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the past, froze his membership of the organisation after the 1993 Oslo deal that launched Palestinian self-rule. "I still oppose the Oslo accord," he told reporters upon arriving in Gaza From Egypt. He said he was in Gaza for a visit "but everything was under consideration." The visit was Mr. Darwish's first since he gave up his Israeli citizenship and went into exile in 1971, complaining of frequent arrests over his political views. He currently lives in Paris.

Evangelist condemns culture of death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. evangelist Pat Robertson condemned a worldwide "culture of death" and urged followers to seek religious experience in the city where Christians believe Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected. Mr. Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network and host of its flagship news programme "The 700 Club," spoke at the 17th Pentecostal World Conference Tuesday. "This is His Place, His city, His country, and I want you to meet Him while you are here," Mr. Robertson said. Addressing delegates from 90 countries, Mr. Robertson slammed an international acceptance of abortion, homosexuality and euthanasia, calling them examples of moral decay. Mr. Robertson held up the international women's conference in China as representative of world degeneracy, criticising organisers for failing to include the word "God" in an official conference statement. "While we are here in Jerusalem worshipping God, the women meeting in Beijing were worshipping whatever they worshipped there," he said. The evangelist who ran unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988 also noted that the women's statement mentioned "mother" only once. "In the United States, 30 million unborn innocent babies have been killed since 1973, and that's only a fraction of what is going on around the world," he said. "How long will God stand for this?"

Germany deports Sudanese refugees

FRANKFURT (R) — Seven Sudanese refugees who had been detained in Frankfurt airport's transit area for six weeks were deported back to Sudan on Tuesday night, German border police said. "They are back on their way to Khartoum," Frankfurt border police said in a brief statement. The refugees had on Tuesday initially avoided being sent back by rioting on board a German plane due to take them home just hours after the country's highest court lifted objections to their deportation. Police had taken them back into custody after the pilot said they should be removed for security reasons. The constitutional court had on Tuesday declined without comment to extend an injonction issued two weeks ago holding up the men's extradition. Some of the men said they had been tortured for political opposition at home. The deportation ended six weeks of legal wrangling during which the refugees took on a high profile by starting a hunger-strike to press demands that they be allowed to enter Germany and launch asylum requests. Several have scars that doctors say are compatible with those caused by torture.

Lebanon rebuffs Bardot; hunting to resume

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government has decided to allow a hunting season after all, rebuffing an appeal by former French film star Brigitte Bardot to stop what she called indiscriminate massacre by trigger-happy Lebanese. Officials said on Wednesday the cabinet decided late on Tuesday to allow hunting to resume after Lebanese gun salesmen criticised the government's ban imposed last month, a day after Ms. Bardot made her plea. The latest decision sanctioned a new four-month hunting season but said after that all hunting would be banned until the end of 1997. In a letter to President Elias Hrawi last month, Ms. Bardot said a resumption of hunting, banned since Jan. 1, would cause indiscriminate massacres of fauna and endanger some species. The official National News Agnecy then reported that the cabinet had decided the day after Ms. Bardot's appeal to han all hunting until further notice. But the Association of Gun Salesmen said in a letter to Mr. Hrawi a day later that Ms. Bardot would do better to try to stop hunting in France which had 3.6 million hunters to Lebanon's 30,000 and less restrictions on species they can shoot.

Girls' school is symbol of battle

HEBRON (AFP) — A girls' school in Hebron defied Jewish settlers again on Tuesday by raising the Palestinian flag, becomming a symbol of the battle for control of the disputed West Bank town.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat gave the head teacher of Cordoba school, Ferial Abu Heikal, a "medal of courage" for her activism.

"We will continue to deploy our flag. It's our right," Ms. Heikal told AFP.

Pupils on Tuesday unfurled the green, red, black and white flag at the top of their three-storey school, located next to the Jewish settlement of Beit Hadassa in the centre of Hebron.

Israeli border guards entered the school a day earlier to take down the flag after complaints from Jewish settlers opposed to the Palestinian symbol.

On Sunday, the settlers took matters into their own hands and tore down the flag, sparking a clash that injured five Palestinian school girls who were pelted with rocks and bottles.

A U.S. State Department spokesman in Washington, Nicholas Burns, described the attack as "truly shocking, even by the low standards set by some settlers."

Control over Hebron is the main stumbling block to a deal to extend Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank.

The PLO wants all Israeli troops to withdraw from Hebron, as from other main West Bank towns, before elections to a self-rule council.

But Israel wants to maintain ultimate responsibility for security to protect the 400 Jewish settlers who live among 120,000 Palestinians in the town.

About 40 Israeli peace activists marched in Hebron on Tuesday in support of the school, and the border guards did not intervene.

"It's their right to fly the flag," said left-wing Israeli deputy Dedi Zucker, who headed the peace march and is also chairman of parliament's legal committee. "Seven thousand Israeli flags fly over the West Bank."

The school's head teacher said incidents between her 118 students and settlers have occurred almost daily since the start of the school year on Sept. 2, adding that police stand by and watch the arguments instead of trying to calm the situation.

In one incident, a settler tore down the flag and wiped his car with it, she said.

Homes turn deathtraps for Algerian journalists

PARIS (R) — The memory of murdered colleagues haunted Algerian journalists who went on strike on Monday in a desperate plea for protection against what newspapers term the carnage wrought by Muslim militants.

Reluctantly but understandably asking not to use his name, one journalist who believes he is on a fundamentalists' death list recently underlined the fear that hangs over his life and those of his colleagues.

"Most of those murdered by terrorists are gunned down near home," he said as he drove to the heights of Algiers in bright Mediterranean sunshine last month.

His mission was to check any suspect presence round the home of a woman colleague who wanted to collect kitchen utensils to take to the small new flat she had moved to for safety.

Both journalists left their homes after Muslim guerrillas confirmed what they term their holy war against journalists by killing more of them.

In Algeria, women used to be almost immune from violence outside the home. But the precautions taken by the journalist's colleague were justified.

Three weeks after that car journey the body of another woman colleague, Naima Hamouda, a cultural reporter, with the weekly Revolution Africaine, was found badly disfigured. She was shot dead near her flat in the Algiers suburb of Saoula.

Since then five more journalists have been killed near home.

On Monday their colleagues shut down almost all newspapers to demand an end to the slaughter and an improvement in what their editors' association called "derisory" protection.

The army-backed government, which calls on journalists to side with it against what it terms the militant havoc threatening Algeria's unity, has pledged repeatedly to protect the media.

The killings have not stopped.

About 50 journalists and media employers have been killed in Algeria since May, 1993, when Muslim guerrillas said they must perish by "the sword" for supporting the government. Many more have fled abroad. About 200 now live in France.

Many of the rest live a twilight world after work, flitting from one hotel to another, living some nights at home but more often "camping" with sometimes reluctant relatives. They change routes and times daily and constantly look over their shoulders.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:00 Iris — The Happy Professor
13:15 ..... Fireman Sam
13:30 ..... My Secret Identity
14:00 ..... NBA
15:00 ..... Bill Eye the Science Guy
15:30 ..... Take Your Pick
16:00 ..... Dead Men's Tales
16:20 ..... I Witness Video
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30 ... Varieties and Game Show
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Court Metrage — visinn
19:30 ..... News Headlines
19:35 ..... National Geographic
20:30 ..... The Album Show
21:15 ..... Murder She Wrote
22:00 ..... News in English
22:25 ..... Film — "Crimson Dawn
23:59 ..... Shogun
00:30 ..... Perfect Stranger

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 ..... Fajr
06:14 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
12:31 ..... Dhuhr
16:03 ..... 'Asr
18:49 ..... Maghreb
20:07 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelleh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and unstable weather conditions will continue to prevail. Temperatures are expected to be eight degrees centigrade above average and winds variable. The heat wave is likely to end Thursday evening. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	25/37
Aqaba	28 /41
Deserts	22 / 40
Jordan Valley	27 / 41

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 38 Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent. Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fayez Dubbas	759155
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi	894788
Dr. Awni Hawamdeh	832350
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846071
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoujh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili	273099
Al Ouds pharmacy	1—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghbassan Al Faqih	906130
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192, 621111.	637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605801
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	1110230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity. J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	607240/50
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)993323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990890

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 ..... Aden (RJ)
08:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
09:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
10:05 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:35 FI1 ..... Beirut (RJ)
10:35 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50 ..... London (RJ)
18:30 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
18:55 ..... Al 'Ain (RJ)
19:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:15 ..... Athens (RJ)
20:00 ..... Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:40 ..... Rome (RJ)
00:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 ..... Doha (O7)
13:40 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)
17:00 ..... Rome (AZ)
18:45 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)
21:00 ..... Dubai (EK)
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)
00:50 ..... London (KL)
01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
01:50 ..... Tunis (add) (TU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 ..... Beirut (RJ)
11:25 .... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:15 ..... Rome (RJ)
12:30 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)
13:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)
13:25 FI1 ..... Athens (RJ)
13:25 ..... London (RJ)
20:35 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
21:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 ..... Bahrain (add) (RJ)
21:45 ..... Doha (RJ)
21:45 ..... New Delhi (add) (RJ)
22:25 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30 Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00 ..... Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)
14:30 ..... Damascus, Doha (O7)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)
22:00 ..... Dubai (EK)
02:35 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
02:50 ..... Tunis (add) (TU)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	600/ 400
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	130 / 100
Carrot	340/350
Cauliflower	200/150
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	230 / 150
Eggplant	250/ 150
Figs	300/250
Garlic	700/500
Grapes	600/500
Guava	650/500
Lemon	320/220
Marrow (large)	200 / 150
Marrow (small)	400 / 300
Molukhia	130 / 80
Okra	850 / 700
Onion (dry)	250/ 200
Orange	440/340
Peaches	1000/800
Pepper (hot)	200 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	220 / 150
Pomegranate	340/250
Potato	240/ 160
String Beans	600 / 500

'Jordanian, Palestinian women share aspirations for peace'

BEIJING (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Wednesday that Jordanian women share with Palestinian women their dreams and their ambitions towards peace and exteod all possible assistance to them whenever it is needed.

In an interview with the China News Agency, the Princess, who headed Jordan's delegation to the World Conference on Women wliich concluded here this week, said Jordanian women's role in the peace process is essential after the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty because they can encourage peaceful attitudes in their capacity as mothers, sisters or wives seeking to attain a better future for their children.

Asked about the priorities for Jordanian women, she said that the main priority is to eradicate poverty and unemployment, two chronic problems that can be solved by the creation of new job opportunities for women through training in income-generating projects that would improve their standard of living.

Referring to the Jordanian National Strategy on Women, the Princess said it aims at promoting the role of women in health, economic and social affairs and also in involving them in socio-economic development schemes.

With reference to education, Princess Basma said that Jordanian men and women have equal educational opportunities in schools and universities, adding that education is an essential element for promoting the status of women and enabling them to be involved in varions activities.

Princess Basma said the discussions at the World Conference on Women in covered all aspects of women's life and she said that she felt that the meetings were all held in a relaxed atmosphere marked by close cooperation and understanding among the various delegates.

Premier reaffirms pledge to support ARABSAT efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday reaffirmed Jordan's pledge to provide assistance and expertise towards the promotion of the Arab Satellite Cnmmnication Organisation, known as ARABSAT.

Speaking at his office with a delegation representing the ARABSAT board of directors, the prime minister said Jordan was ready to promote cooperation with other Arab countries to assist in the development and progress of the organisation's services.

ARABSAT's Chairman of the Board Mohammad Jamil Mulla briefed the prime minister on the outcome of the board's meetings over the past week in Amman.

Discussions at the metings centred on the launching of a new generation of satellites to serve the Arab World in July of 1996, he said.

Mr. Mulla said delegates also reviewed the organisation's financial situation as well as a report on the organisation's performance last year.

The organisation, founded by the Arab League's ministers of post and communications in 1976, aims at creating a pan-Arab satellite network.

Countries on the board attending the meetings were Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Kuwait.

The board concluded its meetings with a statement indicating that by the end of 1995 the organisation will have obtained profits estimated at $25 million from fees paid by Arab countries.

The statement also said that new efforts will be made to market ARABSAT satellites in the Arab World with the additional announcement that the board's next meeting is expected to be held in Morocco in December 1995.

Temperatures to drop gradually, meteorologists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Meteorology Department forecast a gradual drop in temperatures as of Thursday evening, but said temperatures will stay well above the annual average.

The department expected the heatwave which hit the Kingdom Monday to continue all day Thursday, with temperatures in Amman expected to reach a maximum of 37° C, as compared to 38.2° C recorded in downtown Amman Wednesday. The department expected temperatures in Aqaba to soar to a maximum of 41° C Thursday, the same recorded there on Wednesday.

The department said clouds were expected to show at varions altitudes, keeping a chance for scattered showers, with northeasterly light winds, causing dusty weather in desert areas.

A department statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the heatwave was a result of a low air pressure system centred over the northwestern part of the Arab peninsula.

Writers group opens new branch premises

By Muhammad Tahboub
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID— Ever since the Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) left, or was forced to leave, its residence at the Construction of Irbid park in 1984, in compliance with the transitional municipal council's order, members of the association have had no place to meet or perform their cultural activities.

On Tuesday, however, the new premises of the association, located vis-a-vis the northern gate of Yarmouk University, were formally opened by Irbid Mayor Abdul Raouf Tel.

At the opening ceremony President of the Irbid branch of the JWA Mahmoud Issa reiterated the association's position of anti-normalisation with Israel.

In his speech, the mayor promised to allot part of the municipal budget of 1996 for the association.

"The day is not far when we will have Irbid's palace of culture with all the proper facilities and utilities it deserves such as libraries, theatres, conference halls, among other things," he said.

Following introdnctory speeches three poets Ibrahim Khateeb, Nayef Abu Obeid and Mohammad Miqdadi recited selections of their own works.

Present at the opening ceremony of the new premises were Director of the Department of Culture in Irbid Suleiman Azuri, President of the Jordanian Translators' Association Abdullah Shunnaq, Yarmouk University professors and private citizens.

Success in tourism industry linked to raising level of services, facilities — minister

AMMAN (J..T.) — The Jordan-Israel peace treaty which was signed last October has led to the creation of opportune circumstances for the growth and development of the tourism sector in Jordan, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib said Wednesday.

In a lecture be delivered at the Philadelphia Lions Club in Amman, the minister said one would not be over optimistic in saying that Jordan's tourism sector will continue to witness a boom, and that the country will experience further increases in the number of tourists.

Neither is it an exaggeration to say that the tourism sector will continue to serve as an important factor in attracting investors from Jordan and abroad in the coming stage, said Mr. Khatib.

"My expectations do not imply that our region is unique in attracting tourists and investors," according to the minister who stressed that tourism occupies a vital sector of the world 's economy.

World Tourism Organisation (WTO) figures about tourism activities in 1994 indicate that 537 million tourists were on the move spending approximately $341 billion, according to Mr. Khatib.

He said this means that tourism reached first place among other world industries including the oil industry because it accounted for eight per cent of world trade compared to 6.5 per cent for oil.

Referring to Middle East tourism, the minister said that despite its vast wealth of archaeological sites, this region accounted for a mere two per cent of the total volnme of world tourism. What this means, Mr. Khatib said, is that efforts towards the development of the tourism sector are still in their initial stages.

The more peace is enhanced, the more will tourism develop, with the doors remaining wide open for competition within the same region and between the Middle East and other tourist zones around the world, the minister said.

He added that development of the tourism industry requires a high degree of efficiency in producing the tourist commodity and promoting its marketing at home and abroad.

Despite the nnique character of our archaeological sites, said the minister, it is regrettable to say that Jordan's tourism facilities are still be ow the aspired level.

Expressing disagreement with those who say that peace has come abruptly catching us unprepared, the minister said that it is not too late to start improvements because we are face to face with a new opportunity and a challenge in developing our tourism industry to become more appropriate to and matching the value of our archaeological wealth and tourist attractions.

To achieve this goal, he said, Jordan should start expanding and improving infrastructure services and tourist accommodation facilities. Mr. Khatib emphasise that it has been more than 10 years since a major hotel has been constructed in Amman.

He said the Ministry of Tourism has noticed increased investment in hotels and approval has been obtained for the construction of hotels with an accommodation capacity equal to 50 per cent of that of the existing hotels.

This, he stressed, does not mean that matters are moving in exactly the right direction because the two prominent attraction sites — Aqaba and the Dead Sea — are still undeveloped.

Investment in hotels requires experience and specialised skills which entail raising the standard of services at the tourist sites and providing the necessary facilities for visitors, according to Mr. Khatib.

He said this is the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. Mr. Khatib said tourism-related activities are now moving towards improvement with the recent start-up of projects at tourist sites in Amman, Petra, Umm Qais and Mkawer, while other projects are planned for Jerash, Wadi Rum and Karak.

We have learnt from experience that development of tourism can only be achieved through cooperation with the Jordanian citizens especially those living near and around the tourist attractions, said Mr. Khatib who announced that the Ministry of Tourism has begun close cooperation with the municipal councils in building a positive and constructive relationship with the local communities to achieve the best possible result from the tourism industry in Jordan.

In this respect, it is important that Jordanians should develop their traditional handicarfts, and it is equally important to give proper training to local communities so that they are encouraged to become involved in hotel and tourism services, Mr. Khatib continued.

But he noted that these efforts should be backed by hotel and tourism training at the local and national levels.

He said he hoped that the transfer of the Ammoun Hotel to the private sector will be expedited and that the establishment would be converted into a national centre for hotel and tourism training at the local and regional levels.

Noting that tourism industry investors continue to face difficulties in acquiring qualified and trained cadres, the minister called for close cooperation between the Ministry of Tourism and other concerned government departments and the private sector to organise crash training programmes to achieve the required improvements.

Referring to the environment, Mr. Khatib said Jordan has to concentrate on quality rather than quantity in this vital industry, adding that the application of the new environment law will help introduce controls that would safeguard the environment while tourism projects continue.

Stressing that Jordan seeks sustainable and comprehensive development, the minister said that a new law should be enacted on the protection of natural parks and archaeological sites, adding that as a first step, the government has created a special council to take charge of the Petra region and to create an integrated system for the protection of the ancient site.

In order to guarantee the continued flow of tourists, Jordan has to work out an integrated recreational plan, said the minister. In addition, he said, the ministry and the private sector have already started on the creation of a special corporation to stimulate the tourism industry.

Without adopting and implementing a specific marketing policy for Jordan's tourist attractions, especially in Europe, the United States and Japan, the Kingdom can by no means guarantee the continued flow of tourists at reasonable rates, Mr. Khatib said.

It is not only by improving facilities at sites themselves that the tourism industry can achieve success, but rather also by improving services at airports and border posts to meet internationally accepted standards, said the minister.

At the same time, public awareness in this concern is highly significant, and special attention should be directed towards preventing negative practices by individuals whose actions would have adverse results on the society as a whole, he added.

In order for this to succeed, there is an urgent need for modernising and developing Jordan's legislation, Mr. Khatib said. He added that the Ministry of Tourism has enslisted WTO specialists to help Jordan modernise its laws governing tourism.

Needless to say, the minister stressed, that there is a need for Jordan to remain committed to internationally acceptable criteria at all tourist facilities and hotels, and for this reason the ministry has contracted an international firm to reclassify the country's hotels and suggest improvements.

Stressing the need for a database that would provide reliable information about tourism, the minister said that such a work is under way to boost the Ministry of Tourism's capabilities and services.

He said that while the government is attentive to the needs of the tourism sector, it was also important to develop a tourism strategy. In that realm, be said, the ministry is drafting such strategy to serve the country until the year 2010 with the help of Japanese specialists.

It must be emphasised, said the minster, that openness among the countries of the region to one another and competition among them would lead to the improvement of the standard of tourist services in the long run.

The minister concluded by warning that unless Jordan succeeds in taking advantage of the available opportunities for improvement and development and takes immediate steps to raise the standard of services to an acceptable level, it will not acquire the central position in regional tourism.

New society seeks to promote awareness against domestic violence

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Towards a Violence-Free Society (VFS) is the name of a newly established society that aims to "decrease" all forms of violence in the Jordanian community.

"We have to accept that eradicating violence is a mission impossible," said Vice President and sociologist Firyal Saleh.

"Attempting to lower the rate of violence towards children and women through information campaigns and by discussions with those involved in the physical abnse of others, is a first step towards solving the problem," she said.

As part of the society's campaign, lectures are being held in areas such as Sahab and Madaba to inform people of the negative repercussions of abnse, and how to educate children without resorting to physical abnse.

Psychiatrist Ahmad Khalaf, who conducts these lectures voluntarily, is also a member of VFS.

So far, information campaigns are the society's only means of operation.

But in the long-run the society is hoping to establish shelters for physically abused women and children, said sociologist Sari Nasser, founder of the society.

These shelters will also help to reform the abused and the abuser.

"The man who physically abuses his family also has problems that need to be dealt with," said Ms. Saleh.

The centre also aims to create mobile consultation centres, where battered wives and children all over the Kingdom can talk to specialists abont their problems.

The way to deal with these problems is to give the right advice to the victims of physical abuse, VFS members said.

Ms. Saleh hopes that in the near future, laws concerning family abuse would be enacted.

"Jordanian law states that children should oot be abused, but if a child complains of abuse no action is taken against the family," she said.

Lawyer Sawsan Ishaq, who intends to become a member of VFS, said another problem is that Jordanian law gives the family the "right to discipline," hut purposely does not state how far this discipline extends.

An example of how extreme the problems of domestic violence can become, even for those who simply witness it, can be surmised from an incident as recounted by a kindergarten supervisor, who did not wish to be named.

The supervisor told the Jordan Times that while making a routine check of food and books in the schoolbags of her class, she found a large kitchen knife hidden in one schoolbag. The child explained: "I am hiding it from my father who threatens to kill my mother with it."

The idea behind establishing the society emerged during an academic course in applied sociology at the University of Jordan.

At the end of the course a student project proposed the development of an organisation dealing with social problems.

The idea further took shape when Dr. Nasser, the lecturer of the course, invited academicians and social specialists to help in establishing the VFS.

Presently, the society is operating from the premises of the Centre for Social Development at Nazzal district.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

• "Dave," at the American Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

MONO-DRAMA

• "The Great Death," in Arabic, at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

FILM

• "Calder, " at Darat Al Funun at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery.

• Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.

• Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

• 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Joranian artist Ali Bermanet.

• Open Air Sculpture workshop.

• Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

• Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

• 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS

• Abstract art by Iraqi artist Faris 'Ashour at the Royal Cultural Centre.

• Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel.

• Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

• Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

• Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

• Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

American soprano Anita Wakim to launch NMC music season

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Fonndation Sunday launches its new musical season in with performances by American Soprano Anita Wakim in cooperation with the The American Center in Amman.

Ms. Wakim will give two public performances while in Jordan: The first on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Royal Cultural Centre and the second on Monday, Sept. 18 in Madaba.

During these performances, Ms. Wakim will be accompanied on the piano by National Music Conservatory pianist Mohammad Othman Siddiq.

The programme includes songs from famous American productions such as "Climb Every Mountain" from The Sound of Music, "Over the Rainbow" from The Wizard of Oz, and jazz favourites from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Anita Wakim

Ms. Wakim, who began her musical studies at the age of six, studied music at Yale University and Boston University and holds a B.A. in music.

She has received numerons prizes and awards including the prestigious Massachusetts Arts Lottery Grant from the Milton, Massachusetts Arts Council.

As a dramatic colonratura, Ms. Wakim has had extensive concert experience and has sung for radio and television in the United States. She has also taught music at Yale University, the Boston Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Sidiq holds a masters degree in piano and conducting from Gnessinsky State Musical and Pedagogical Institute in Moscow.

He has performed in Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Germany, Hungary and Russia.

Currently, Mr. Sidiq teaches piano and conducts the orchestra the orchestra at the National Music Conservatory.

Jordan starts clean-up drive

AMMAN (J.T.) — 'Recycling waste is a national income' was the slogan under which the Jordanian Environment Society (JES) Wednesday launched a nation-wide three-day clean- up campaign.

The campaign is being carried out in 13 Jordanian cities where there are JES branches, according to JES Director Suleiman Hanbali.

The campaign is aimed at getting citizens used to collecting waste matter and keeping the country clean and tidy, he said.

The drive takes place at the same time in 107 nations under a world programme of keeping the planet clean.

Voluntary groups are conducting the cleaning and collecting of waste in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Koura, Ajloun, Fuheis, Salt, Zarqa, Karak, Tafileh, Wadi Musa, Aqaba and Madaba.

Mr. Hanbali said that in Amman nearly 3,000 volunteers spent the day cleaning Queen Noor Forest on the Yajouz-Tabarbour Highway where they collected glass, paper, plastic and other waste in separate bags so that they could be recycled separately.

He said that the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories is providing space for the volunteeers to sort out the collection before the recycling process.

"It is hoped that Jordanian citizens will follow suit and sort out the waste at their own homes in separate bags so that the collections may be recycled by different factories," Mr. Hanbali said.

He said volunteers will also have to clean forests and parks that are heavily frequented by visitors.

The campaign is being launched in cooperation with the Public Security Department which provided five buses to transport volunteers to and from the clean up areas. The Ministry of Health provided an ambulance to accompany the volunteers in case of emergencies and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation provided a water tank to provide drinking water.

75 feared killed in Sri Lanka military aircraft crash

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A military transport aircraft crashed into the sea off the coast of western Sri Lanka in had weather Wednesday, and all 75 people nn board were feared killed, a senior air force official said.

The air force said there was no evidence that the plane was hrought down hy Tamil rebels.

The propeller-driven AN-32 aircraft took off from Ratmalana Airport, 12 kilometres south of Colombo bound fnr the Palali military base in northern Sri Lanka.

"The aircraft had been in radio contact and was attempting to return when it lost communications and disappeared from the ground-based radar screens," said Air Commodnre Jayalath Weerakoddy, director of air force operations.

Earlier, a military spokesman said 81 people were on board, bnt the air force revised the figure after checking the manifest.

Hours after the plane disappeared, rescue aircraft and ships sighted an oil slick and cigarette cartons floating in the sea.

Later, naval ships recovered a control rod, a fire extinguisher, two pieces of clothing and identification cards, hut no wreckage was sighted. The sea bed is at a depth of 1,000 metres, and cannot be seen from the surface.

"We have still not come to a definite conclusion ... But with the little evidence available, the crash may have occurred due to bad weather," Commodore Weerakoddy told a press briefing. He ruled out a Tamil rebel surface-to-air missile attack.

Ten minutes after taking off at 7.08 am (0138 GMT) in pouring rain, the pilot, Squadron Leader Ranjan Pakyanathan, had developed a problem with instruments on the aircraft.

"The radar controller had communication with the pilot, guiding him back to avoid had weather, when the aircraft disappeared," Commodore Weerakoddy said.

Ground stations lost touch with the aircraft when it was off the coast of Negombo, 50 kilometres from Ratmalana.

The plane was carrying troops for a planned offensive against Tamil guerrillas, officials said. The military had launched its biggest anti-rebel offensive in eight years from Palali in July.

The aircraft was at a height of 8,000 feet (2,400 metres) and ascending over the sea, when it made contact with the radar controller.

Sri Lanka asked India to nse its satellites to help track the wreckage and possible survivors. The aircraft was carrying 68 soldiers, two policemen and the five member air force crew.

Tamil separatist rebels are fighting government troops in the north and east to win a separate homeland for minority Tamils. More than 36,000 people have been killed in the war since 1983.

Since fighting erupted on April 19 after peace talks broke down, rebels have shot down three military aircraft in the north with missiles, severely depleting the strength of the nation's small air force and affecting troop movements to the war zone.

The plane that crashed Wednesday was one of the three AN-32s purchased from Ukraine in July, for $4.5 million each, in a push to match rebel strength.

The new aircraft were equipped with antimissile systems, to protect them from rebel missiles.

The Princess of Wales and Italian opera star Luciano Pavarotti walk arm in arm into the concert arena in Modena, Italy, where a charity concert was held in aid of the children of Bosnia (AFP photo)

Opera, rock mix beat for children of Bosnia

MODENA, Italy (R) — A galaxy of stars mixed opera, rock and rap when the world of music came together to sing for the children of Bosnia.

Italy's prince of opera, Luciano Pavarotti, assembled a who's who of the music business to beat out everything from Irish folk to the Ave Maria at a benefit concert for the child victims of Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.

"If one child gets helped, God's looking down on us and God will smile," American rock giant Meatloaf told Reuters.

He spoke backstage after joining Pavarotti in a duet of the Neapolitan song Come Back To Sorrento on a night of music attended by 15,000 people including Britain's Princess Diana, the guest of honour.

Pink-haired Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer of the Cranberries, teamed up with the tenor for the bymn Ave Maria and American Michael Bolton almost matched him for impact in an operatic aria.

Singer Bono and former roxy music musician Brian Eno pooled forces with Pavarotti for a new song, Miss Sarajevo.

RAI television, which hroadcast the concert live in Italy ,cut during the song to hlack and white film of a beauty pageant in the Bosnian capital at which swimsuited contestants paraded with a banner reading: "Don't let them kill us".

Other stars performing included Italy's hlues king Zucchero, Simon Le Bon of Duran Duran and the Irish folk group the Chieftains.

The audience at the open-air concert, held in a central park in Pavarotti's northern home town of Modena, paid between $20 and $155 for tickets to the 2-1/2 show.

All receipts, plus donations from Italian television viewers and proceeds from sales around the world of audio and video recordings of the concert, will go to the small British charity War Child.

"We believe that when this war is over for the children, they will want to sing," Pavarotti told the crowd.

"I know because I was 10 when the war ended here and the first thing I wanted to do to show we were alive was sing."

Italian rap star Jovanotti introduced a note of controversy when he used his act to criticise NATO air raids under way against Bosnian Serb military targets.

"I don't think you can stop war with war," be said in a rap ryhthm. "I think there are fairer ways to obtain peace."

War Child, which has strong support from Brian Eno, was started in 1991 by two cameramen who were shocked by what they saw in the war in Croatia.

It has already raised £1 million ($1.5 million) from sales of a charity record album by some of Britain's best young pop bands and former Beatle Paul McCartney. The compilation hit Britisb stores only last Saturday.

The night ended with Pavarotti and his friends all on stage to sing a new song, The Bridge Is Broken, and the opera maestro's signature aria "Nessun Dorma".

Written by composer-conductor Micbael Kaymen, The Bridge Is Broken was inspited hy the famous Ottoman Turkish bridge in the Bosnian city of mostar, wbere War Child hopes to set up a musical therapy centre for children traumatised by war.

Having stood for centuries, the hridge was destroyed in bitter fighting between Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Bhutto forms coalition in powerful Punjab

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A coalition government led hy prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party took control of Pakistan's powerful Punjab province Wednesday, the state-run news agency reported.

A week of political wheeling and dealing culminated Wednesday with a vote of confidence taken in the Punjah provincial legislature in the eastern city of Lahore by Ms. Bhutto's party and its allies.

Last week President Farooq Leghari, a close ally of Ms. Bhutto's, suspended the Punjah legislature and Tuesday forced her opponent, Punjab Chief Minister Mansoor Wattoo, to take a vote of confidence.

But he boycotted the session leaving Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and her allies, known as the Junejo Faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, to try to form the government.

For mucb of the last week both sides have been wooing legislators, putting them up in five-star hotels in the capital of Islamabad and reportedly offering vast sums of money.

Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif accused Ms. Bhutto of spending millions of rupees to buy the support of nndecided legislators in the Punjab Assembly.

Ms. Bhutto denied the charges, but in Pakistan's rough and tumhle politics support often goes to the highest hidder.

With control of the Punjah province, Ms. Bbutto appeared positioned to last out her remaining three years in power.

Ms. Bhutto's predecessor, Nawaz Sharif, was forced to call early elections in 1993, after less than three years in power wben be lost the support of the Punjab province.

More than 60 per cent of Pakistan's 120 million people live in the Punjab province whicb provides the hulk of the country's agricultural output.

Ms. Bhutto won the 1993 general elections by a narrow margin and formed a coalition government in the centre. Since then sbe bas been trying to consolidate her political position in Pakistan's four provincial legislatures.

Last year she used a similar constitutional loophole to throw out an opposition government in the North-west Frontier Province.

Her party and its allies now run three of the four provinces. The sparsely-populated Baluchistan province is the only one controlled by her opponents but it is not considered politically important.

Canada Indian protestors see numbers dwindle

100 MILE HOUSE, British Columbia (R) — The ranks of armed native Indian protesters occupying disputed Canadian ranchland dwindled Tuesday when police captured one rebel and two teenage girls left voluntarily.

Tensions ran high after a gun battle between the militants and police Monday near Gustafsen Lake about 450 kilometres north of Vancouver. Officials sought Tuesday to restart negotiations with an estimated 20 protesters occupying part of a private ranch in the Britisb Columbia interior wbo claim it as sacred Indian land.

The gunfight — the seventh outbreak of sbooting at Gustafsen Lake so far — is the latest in a string of confrontations across Canada between Indians and police over the issue of land rights.

Seven protesters wbo have left the Gustafsen Lake camp in the last two weeks, and officials believe fewer than 20 rebels remain inside. One militant was slightly injured in Monday's clash but refused to leave the camp.

Two unidentifed 15-year-old girls were brought out of the camp and taken to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in nearby 100 Mile House after a Shuswap first nation spiritual adviser visited the camp Tuesday.

Police spokesman Peter Montague told reporters that a man was captured outside a perimeter police have drawn around the camp. The man was not identified, but is believed to be a protester reported missing after Monday's gunbattle.

Shuswap Indian leaders continued efforts to mediate an end to the month-old standoff and raised the idea of bringing in United Nations-style third-party observers.

Indian leaders criticised police Tuesday and said they believed the federal government is bringing in military anti-terrorist forces. The Shuswap and Okanagan nation alliance said in a statement that the protesters' rights to food, water and emergency medical aid were being violated.

Police spokesman John Ward said there was no build-up of army personnel. He said a police offer to evacuate wounded protesters was refused Monday.

The land rights issue has also simmered in Ontario, where in Grand Bend a 38-year old Indian was killed last week in another gunbattle with police during a continuing standoff.

Spain's Catalans to force early elections by blocking budget

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's one time political allies took a calculated step to pressure him into early elections this fall by pledging to hlock passage of Spain's 1996 national budget.

Mr. Gonzalez's Socialist Party quickly responded to the challenge hy the Convergence and Union Coalition, vowing to stay in office until March and keep the country running with a minor revision of the 1995 hudget.

But Finance Minister Pedro Solbes, speaking on the Cope Radio Network, said: "It is not possihle to go on indefinitely with an extendcd hudget. The issue of elections would have to be raised."

Mr. Gonzalez, who was in Jordan on a Middle East tour on behalf of the European Union, made no immediate comment Tuesday.

The Convergence and Union Coalition, a grouping of two small, centre-right parties from the northeastern Catalonia region, issued a statement saying it would oppose the Socialists' budget.

"It is not a matter of (the hudget's) content, but of the government's viability," said Ramon Camp, a leader of one of the coalition partners.

Mr. Gonzalez's scandal-plagued government has been under increasing pressure over the last year to move up general elections scheduled for 1997.

The prime minister, who has been in office since 1982, had relied on the coalition's support to pass legislation since the Socialists lost their parliamentary majority in the last general election in June 1993.

If Coalition votes against the 1996 budget bill the Socialists must submit this month, it is unlikely the government could muster support to override the opposition.

The conservative opposition Popular Party also is demanding early elections, whicb opinion polls predict it would win bandily.

The Catalans began distancing themselves from Mr. Gonzalez in the spring when a judicial investigation began pointing to government involvement in death squads that killed basque separatists in the 1980s.

The investigation into the anti-terrorist liberation groups further weakened the government following corruption charges against several Socialist officials.

Hole in ozone is size of Europe — U.N.

GENEVA (AP) — The hole in the Earth's ozone layer is growing faster than ever and has reached 10 million square kilometres (3.9 million square miles) — roughly the size of Europe — the U.N. weather agency said.

The seasonal hole, which lies over Antarctica and generally forms during September and October, has douhled in size over the same time last year, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Over the next few weeks it is expected to expand to at least 62 million square kilometres (24 million square miles), its record size reached at the end of September last year.

"From the end of July through August and early September ozone levels in this polar region have depleted by an average of 1 per cent a day... more rapidly than ever before," said Rumen Bojkov, special adviser on ozone to the agency.

Mr. Bojkove said destruction of atmospheric ozone, which protects against cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation, will continue until international agreements curtailing use of ozone-destroying chemicals bear fruit in the next century.

The weather agency has been monitoring ozone levels for the last 40 years and bas detected an ozone hole over the Antarctic during September and October of every year since the 1980s.

In August, the region had 30 per cent to 35 per cent less ozone than at the same time in 1958. Ozone levels above Europe and North America have dropped 10 per cent to 15 per cent, the agency said.

"Every one per cent drop in ozone means roughly 1.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent more ultraviolet radiation reaching the surface," Mr. Bojkov said.

He said each 1 per cent increase in ultraviolet radiation is thought to increase chances of skin cancer and eye cataracts by 2 per cent.

"It is undesirable because it is a cumulative," he said. "Everyone collects more radiation over a lifetime. It is not dangerous at the moment hnt it could be, depending on how long such conditions continue."

Under the Montreal Protocol of 1987, countries agreed to reduce world-wide use of ozone-destroying chemicals such as chlorine and bromine.

But the destructive cbemicals bave a life-span of 60 to 100 years. So, the ozone level is expected to continue decreasing until starting a recovery about 2040.

The organisation expects the ozone decline to become more and more severe over the next 10 years, reducing levels over Europe and North America by another 5 per cent to 6 per cent.

Armenia denies leak at nuclear plant

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — A top Armenian government official denied reports that a recent nuclear plant accident has led to the release of radioactivity.

Atomic Energy Minister Gagik Martirosian acknowledged that there was a small leak of cooling water from the Medzamor plant during the bydraulic tests there on Sept. 1.

He said no radioactivity was released in the accident.

The Fact News Service has reported a crack in the reactor's wall and said the leaked water was radioactive.

"There hasn't been and there won't be anything like that," Mr. Martirosian told a a news conference.

Last June, the energy-starved Armenia shrugged off safety concerns and protests from its neighbours and officially reopened its aging nuclear power plant, which was closed after the devastating 1988 earthquake.

Test operations on the reactor have been underway since then, but the plant is not expected to start producing electricity for commercial use before December.

The Medzamor plant was built in 1979 and closed in 1989 following the earthquake in northern Armenia that claimed 25,000 lives. It is situated 30 kilometres west of the Armenian capital, Yerevan, and just 12 kilometres from Turkey.

Armenia bas been crippled by an energy blockade during its 7-year war with neighbouring Azerbaijan over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. For several winters in a row, bomes only had power and water for an hour or two a day, and most factories closed or operated at a fraction of capacity.

Amin rebels threaten Ugandan town

KAMPALA (R) — Rebels who say they want to reinstate exiled former dictator Idi Amin as Uganda's ruler have threatened to seize his bometown in the country's northwest.

"We shall capture Arua within the next few weeks just to show them (the government) that we are not just another rag-tag army," a man who identified himself as lieutenant-colonel in the rebel army said in telepbone call to an international news agency Tuesday night.

The West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) rebel group first surfaced in May and says it wants to topple President Yoweri Museveni's government and reinstate Mr. Amin.

Mr. Amin, 70, has been in exile in Saudi Arabia since fleeing Uganda in 1979 when tanzanian troops overthrew him and ended a bloodthirsty rule which shocked the world. Tens of thousands of people were killed under his eight-year reign of terror.

But he enjoys a strong following among local tribesmen and Muslims who were the favoured during his rule.

The caller said the WNBF, led hy former Amin aide Colonel Jnma Oris, has more than 4,000 fighters and was strong enough to take on government troops in the area.

The government imposed an all-night curfew on Arua over the weekend to contain rebel attacks and security officials say scores of people bave been arrested since then.

Hundreds of people have fled the Arua area, which borders Sudan and Zaire, as a result of the rebel activities.

"We are interested in peace all right but it takes two to tango," the caller said.

"It is because of their intransigence that we have decided to take this action. We have been waiting for openings for talks bnt this latest move shows they are not interested."

Uganda says the WNBF is backed by Sudan and Zaire. Sudan denies the charge.

Blast shreds vehicle, kills 5 in U.S. shopping centre parking lot

ESSEX, Maryland (AP) — A man estranged from his wife drove his family to a sbopping mall parking lot and blew up their car, killing himself, his wife and three children, police said Tuesday.

The thunderous explosion shredded a station wagon, shaking nearby homes and raining debris and body parts for blocks.

The dead were identified as Mark A. Clark, 32, and his estranged wife Betty Louise Clark, 32. Their 4-year-old danghter, Krysta Clark, and two of Mrs. Clark's children, Malissa Ray, 11, and Ricardo Valdez, 6, were also killed.

Police said they had no records of domestic violence, hut family members have told police Mr. Clark had threatened his family. Police would not provide any details.

"We strongly suspect that he brought his family in his car with the explosives and the intention to kill them," said a police spokesman, Lt. Steve Doarnberger.

Police suspect a form of dynamite called slurry caused the blast that ripped apart the 1987 Ford Taurus station wagon.

Buckingham Palace — 'an expensive tourist traps'

LONDON (AFP) — Buckingbam Palace and Windsor Castle, two of the queen's official residences, are among the poorest-value tourist attractions in Britain, according to a report. The palace is described by the respected consumer magazine Holiday Whicb? as "one of the most expensive tourist traps in England," the Times newspaper reported. The magazine rated it the worst value in a national league table with Windsor Castle just above it in a "poor value" category, the paper said. Other attractions criticised include the prehistoric site Stonehenge in western England, Saint Paul's Cathedral in London, and the Tower of London, which had raised prices by 24 per cent in twn years. Brighton's Royal Pavilion on the south coast and the Roman Baths in Bath, western England, were praised for being good value for money. Buckingham Palace, which opened its doors two years ago to help to pay for reconstruction after a fire at Windsor, charges £8.50 ($13) entrance fee, but according to the report "there's not enough on offer to justify the price." The report added that because none of the exhibits was labelled visitors needed to buy a guidebook costing £3.50 ($5) to be able to know what they were looking at.

Vegetarian mascot finds Texas tough going

DALLAS (R) — "Chris P. Carrot", a new mascot that animal rights activists hope will promote vegetarian eating habits, found his first foray into Texas cattle country tougher than expected this week. Armed with buttons reading "meat stinks", the 7-foot-(2-metre) tall orange carrot character was turned away from at least one elementary school while the principal of another warned students not to talk to strangers wben he waddled in, animal rights group People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) said in a news release. PETA said the carrot would continue its "eat your veggies, not your friends" campaign outside school areas if authorities ban him from school grounds.

1-year-old child unharmed as train ran over him

SOFIA (AFP) — A one-year-old boy miraculously escaped unscathed when a train ran over him in Montana Station, northwest Bulgaria, the daily newspaper Troud reported. The gipsy child, found huddled between the rails, was frightened but completely unharmed, according to the newspaper report. Police have opened an inqniry into how the child found his way on to the tracks, some 15 kilometres from his home. They have not ruled out the possibility his parents were trying to kill him because they cannot afford to keep all their children.

5 nuns sought for procuring girls for Thai monk

BANGKOK (AFP) — Arrest warrants have been issued for eight women, including five Buddhist nuns, on cbarges they belped procure young girls for sex with a monk, police said Wednesday. Major Thawee Sodsong of the Crime Suppression Bureau said warrants were issued for the women, wbo were alleged to have abetted the abbot of a temple in Nakhon Pathom in Raping 10 girls aged between 12 and 15 years. The abbot, who subsequently left the monkhood, is in jail awaiting trial. The Bangkok Post quoted an Interior Ministry source as saying that three of the eigbt women would be regarded as principals in the case and would face the same punishment as the former abbot.

Buckingham Palace — 'an expensive tourist traps'

Vegetarian man finds Texas too going

1-year-old child unharmed as train over him

5 nuns sought for procuring girls for Thai monk

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl unveils the South African German Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg. Mr. Kohl is the first German Head of government ever to visit South Africa (AFP photo)

Kohl urges Mandela, Buthelezi to settle differences

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday urged South Africa's major parties to find a compromise in their protracted dispute over greater autonomy for the country's provinces.

Mr. Kohl, speaking at a press conference at the end of his five-day visit to South Africa, said President Nelson Mandela has agreed to send a delegation to Germany to study the federal system of government there.

Mr. Mandela's office told AFP Wednesday that the president had also accepted Mr. Kohl's invitation to undertake a state visit to Germany, although the dates have not been finalised.

Mr. Kohl said he had discussed federalism extensively with Mandela, his two deputies and the leader of the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who is also bome affairs minister in South Africa's government of national unity.

Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and the IFP have been at loggerheads since last year's first all-race elections over how much power should be granted to South Africa's nine provinces.

In March, Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP walked ont of South Africa's Constitutional Assembly in protest at the ANC's failure to engage in international mediation on the question of federalism.

Mr. Buthelezi has also called on the eastern Kwazulu Natal province, where the IFP dominates a coalition government, to "rise and resist" against Mandela's central administration.

Mr. Kohl denied that his Christian Democratic Union government or Germany's Konrad Adeneur Foundation had given financial support to the IFP's pro-federalist strategy.

"I don't have any intention to interfere in the internal affairs of this country ... in all my talks (with Mandela and Buthelezi), I said a peaceful solution must be found," Mr. Kohl said.

"This is only possible if ... the opposing forces come together. Germany's decision in 1948 to introduce a federal system of government had been a "piece of luck," he said.

Mr. Kohl repeated earlier promises to secure South Africa access to European markets, saying he did not want the European Union to become a "fortress Europe."

He said he hoped the Berlin agreement providing for regional co-operation between the EU and the Southern African Development Community, of which South Africa is a leading member, would be "filled with life as soon as possible."

Bickering keeps Greece, Macedonia from accord

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Bickering over the time frame for lifting Greece's embargo against Macedonia kept the two sides from signing an agreement Tuesday to stop their four-year feud and resume economic relations.

The foreign ministers of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia came to New York to sign an accord already worked out in principle by U.N. and U.S. negotiators, and were scheduled to hold face-to-face discussions to agree to the final points.

But Greece's Carolos Papoulias and Macedonia's Stevo Crvenkovski spent the day instead "niggling over the tiniest things," according to one U.N. diplomat, in back-and-forth meetings with U.S. negotiator Matthew Nimitz and U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance in separate New York hotels.

A Greek diplomat said the main niggling point involved the timing of the lifting of Greece's crippling economic embargo against Macedonia, imposed in February 1994.

Macedonia's delegation wants the embargo lifted along with the signing of the agreement, while having 30 days to have its parliament agree to remove a controversial symbol from its flag, diplomats said.

The symbol, a sun, represented an ancient Macedonian empire — part of what is now Greece as well as the present former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Greeks insist that the removal of the sun from the flag and the lifting of the embargo be done simultaneously.

The two foreign ministers put off meeting face-to-face until their differences were worked out, diplomats said.

Talks were to continue Wednesday, and an accord was still expected. But an impasse could not be completely ruled out due to the nationalist passions the issue inspires in both countries.

U.N. officials said the agreement would bring U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali back to work for the first time since he was struck down by the flu more than 10 days ago and ordered to stay home and rest.

The differences between Greece and Macedonia centred for months around the use of the name "Macedonia." But the question of the definitive legal name of the country now registered as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will not be covered by the agreement.

Greece, which has a province called Macedonia, objects strongly to another state using the same name for fear it could reflect eventual territorial ambitions by its neigbbour.

Greece made the lifting of the embargo conditional on changes to the Macedonian flag and its northern neighbour's constitution which Athens says codifies expansionist ambitions.

The clause in the constitution stipulates that Macedonia would defend the interests of Macedonians abroad, which could be taken to mean in Greece.

Mr. Papoulias said previously that the eventual agreement would pave the way "for parallel negotiations on the name" of Macedonia.

Greek newspapers said the name issue would be discussed during a second round of talks, a month after the accord is signed.

Macedonian officials in Skopje, the capital of the country which declared its independence from the ex-Yugoslavia in 1991, hoped the New York meeting would seal their long fight for recognition.

They were also counting on it as a first step towards revitalising their moribund economy after Greece's embargo, which Skopje says has cost it some $50 a month.

Skopje further hopes Greece will also lift a veto on Macedonia joining the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partnership programmme and international financial institutions.

Mr. Crvenkovski said there would be "no winner, no loser" in the talks which would lead to a mutual "unambiguous recognition" of each country's territorial integrity.

Attorneys argue over bloodstain in Simpson's Bronco

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's defence urged the judge to bar prosecutors from telling jurors about a DNA test that could link the former U.S. football star to the murder of his ex-wife.

According to the test, a blood stain in Simpson's Ford Bronco has the genetic markers of Simpson and one of the murder victims.

Judge Lance Ito said he would rule later.

Simpson has pleaded innocent to charges that he killed his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her male friend on June 12, 1994. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Defense Attorney Barry Scheck said the DNA results, revealed last week, came too late in the trial to be allowed into evidence.

Mr. Scheck accused prosecutors of purposely delaying the testing to ambush the defence.

"It is inexcusable. It is purposeful. There can be no question about it — it was bad faith," Mr. Scheck said. And it is arrogant."

But prosecutor Brian Kelberg countered that the state crime lab worked as quickly as it could. He said the scientist in charge, Gary Sims, had to deal with a death in the family around the time of the testing.

Mr. Kelberg said Mr. Sims also wanted to be meticulous to anticipate the grilling he almost certainly would get in court.

The discussion was held at a hearing Tuesday without the jury present. Simpson also was absent. The reason was not announced.

The test result in dispute was conducted on a stain lifted from the console of Simpson's Bronco, which prosecutors allege he drove to his ex-wife's house to commit the murders.

A genetic test called RFLP concluded the stain contained the genetic markers of Simpson and victim Ronald Goldman.

On Monday, images of Simpson wearing leather gloves like those found by murder investigators captivated jurors after prosecutors were forced to begin their rebuttal even though the defence refused to rest.

Judge Ito ordered testimony to resume in spite of defence plans to present "startling" evidence involving a mystery witness and a vow to appeal rulings involving detective Mark Fuhrman.

The prosecution reluctantly began its rebuttal with a gallery of photos of a glove-clad Simpson, microphone in hand, doing television commentary on professional football games in the early 1990s.

It was the prosecution's final attempt to erase the impact of an earlier demonstration that failed when Simpson struggled to pull on the evidence gloves and told the jury they were too small.

Prosecutors want to show that the gloves Simpson was wearing on television were also too small and that their size did not deter him from wearing them.

Glove expert Richard Rubin was in the courtroom waiting to testify about similarities between the bloody gloves and those Simpson wore on the football field sidelines.

One of the reasons the defence is not resting is that it want jurors to know why detective Fuhrman will not be testifying.

Earlier in the trial, Mr. Fuhrman said he found a bloody glove outside Simpson's estate that matched one found alongside Nicole Brown Simpson's and Goldman's bodies.

Outside the jury's presence last week, the retired detective invoked his constitutional right against self-incrimination and refused to answer any questions, including whether he planted evidence against Simpson.

For more than a year, Mr. Fuhrman has been a target of attacks by defence attorneys, who contend he is a racist capable of inventing evidence against Simpson.

The judge refused to have Mr. Fuhrman invoke his constitutional right before jurors. He is also refusing to let jurors hear portions of audiotapes in which Mr. Fuhrman boasts about planting and manufacturing evidence in other cases.

Another issue stalling the end of the defence's case was lead attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s disclosure that he had met with the judge privately to inform him that there may be "startling" information regarding a "critical witness."

Mr. Cochran said information on the witness, whom he refused to identify, was developing and would not be complete until Wednesday. The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified defence sources, said the defence team is investigating possible impeachment evidence against a "key prosecution witness." The paper did not elaborate.

Rao adds youthful zest to cabinet

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao added 15 second-rank ministers to his government Wednesday, injecting a dose of youth and tightening his grip on a divided ruling party ahead of elections due next year.

He brought in 13 new faces, including a former national hockey star, and two lower level ministers were promoted in a swearing-in ceremony at the ornate Rashtrapati Bhavan presidential palace.

After the ceremony, Mr. Rao said there would be more cabinet changes soon. "There will be one more expansion shortly but it will be only marginal to remove regional imbalances," he told reporters.

The emphasis in the third ministerial revamp this year was on youth as Mr. Rao rewarded loyalists who stood by him in the face of a rebellion in Congress ranks, officials said.

The ministers' new portfolios were to be disclosed later when the government was to announce the cabinet's composition.

Five junior ministers had stepped down earlier in the week clearing the way for the reshuffle, and several cabinet-rank ministers had been expected to leave the government, in some cases to do Congress Party work.

But Mr. Rao appeared to rule out the departure of any full ministers. "There will be no more resignations," he said.

Mr. Rao was expected eventually to beef up two governing bodies of his ruling Congress Party, with some departing ministers taking on organisational work, aides said.

He has been keen to strengthen the Congress Working Committee (CWC), its main governing body, as well as the All India Congress Committee (AICC), its plenary body, after both were weakened by defections to the rebel camp earlier this year.

Seven of the new junior ministers were from the lower house of parliament (Lok Sabha), while six were from the upper house (Rajya Sabha), United News of India said.

Mr. Rao brought in S.S. Ahluwalia, considered close to Sonia Gandhi, the influential widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has been courted by Congress dissidents.

Another new junior minister, Aslam Sher Khan, scored the winning goal for India when it clinched Hockey's World Cup two decades ago.

R.K. Dhawan, given independent charge of an unidentified ministry, was a close aide to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and is considered a political fixer.

An official list circulated at the presidential palace named four other people who had been scheduled to be sworn in as junior ministers but who officials said could not make the ceremony.

It was not known whether the next reshuffle which Mr. Rao referred to would include those four or others.

General elections must be held by mid-1996 but the government has indicated it would prefer to schedule them before next April to avoid the sweltering heat of May and June.

Congress, which holds a narrow majority in the lower house of parliament, suffered defeats in a string of key states which voted in late 1995 and early this year.

U.S. Senate panel kills anti-abortion part of foreign aid bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate subcommittee rejected an effort to bar U.S. foreign aid for organisations that perform or support abortions.

On an 8-5 vote Tuesday, the subcommittee in charge of foreign spending deleted the restrictive language from a bill providing $12.3 billion for foreign aid in the fiscal year starting Oct.1.

The bill in question was already passed by the House of Representatives. It now awaits approval by the Senate.

The bill also would cut off aid to Russia if it goes ahead with the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. So far, Russia has rejected U.S. appeals that it cancel the reactor sale.

The full committee is expected to take up the measure Thursday.

The Foreign Aid Bill passed by the House would bar giving U.S. funds to any groups that support abortion even in countries where the procedure is legal. It also would cut off money for the U.N. Population Fund unless the international group ended all activities in China.

The abortion issue is certain to be raised again when the bill reaches the full Senate this fall. If the Senate does not restore the restrictive language on abortion, it will set the stage for a bitter confrontation among legislators.

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Time for Jerusalem

THE STEPPED-UP Israeli campaign against Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem should be seen in the broader context of Israel's policies on the holy city. That the campaign is taking place at a time when Israel is in the midst of peace talks with the Palestinians and other Arab parties rings an alarm about the future of the city and the Arab identity of its Eastern part. What is more alarming, however, is that the effort to obliterate the Arab character of Jerusalem is being launched during the reign of a Labour government which has committed itself to discussing the issue with the Palestinians.

Arabs have often argued that in their conflict with Israel time is on their side. This argument is obviously faulty when it comes to Jerusalem, however. This is so not just because of what the Israeli government and Mayor Olmert are doing in order to change the character of the city and consolidate the Jewish presence in it. It also is because of demographic changes that are taking place in terms of the numbers of Arabs and Jews living in Jerusalem and also in terms of the type of Jews who are moving into the city.

As secular Israelis are not showing any particular interest in making Jerusalem their home, religious Jews are moving in en masse in a conscious effort to abort any political decision to reach a compromise with the Arabs.

Once religious Jews are the majority in Jerusalem, they could elect a fundamentalist mayor who would move faster than his government in consolidating the Jewish presence there. These extremists might then want to drive the Arabs out of the city and prevent their government from striking any deal on it. The massacre at Haram Al Ibrahimi in Hebron over a year and a half ago is a bloody example of what they might do.

This is why it is extremely urgent that the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab countries continue to make Jerusalem a priority issue. It is with extreme alertness and care that they should be watching all Israeli acts in the city and helping encourage the Arab presence in it. The question of Jerusalem is clearly one that the Arabs should not leave for time. Nothing short of solid, coordinated and well-thought-out action can help restore Arab rights in one of their holiest cities.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON a report in the American press that the Jordanian authorities have seized an Iraqi car full of weapons on its way to Jordan, a writer in **Al Ra'i** daily said the Americans are trying to create an atmosphere of tension between Amman and Baghdad. It would not be surprising to hear other similar false reports of this kind and to hear about Israeli agents planting explosives in Jordan like they did in Egypt, in order to damage Jordanian-Iraqi relations and help tighten the noose around Baghdad, said Tareq Masarweh. Urging the public and the government to keep their eyes open and remain vigilant against such actions, the writer said that forces hostile to the Arabs are working hard through their plots and conspiracies to isolate Jordan from its neighbouring Arab states and become completely dependent on Israel, succumbing to its whims and desires.

LIBYA'S EXPULSION of 30,000 Palestinians should be condemned as an inhuman action committed against people who have lost their homeland, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in **Al Dustour** daily. But Libya is not solely responsible for the tragedy of these people who are now stranded at sea near Lebanon or along the Libyan-Egyptian borders, said the writer. At least 15,000 of these people are entitled to return to Palestinian land because they carry travel documents from Gaza issued to them by the Egyptian authorities, which had ruled the Gaza Strip; and therefore Israel bears the responsibility for their return, according to the writer. The other 15,000 are the responsibility of Syria and Lebanon, which had issued them travel documents which opened the way for their travel to Libya, he continued. We are appalled to see the Libyan authorities taking this shameful step, but we are also shocked to see Lebanon turning the refugees away and Egypt failing to allow them to cross into its territory. It is ironic, said the writer, to hear about the plight of the refugees at a time when Israeli and Arab delegates are gathered in Amman discussing not the problem of repatriating the refugees but the question of who should be considered a displaced person with Israel adamantly refusing the idea of their return.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The great American-style university: Wishful thinking or feasible project?

RECENTLY, we have been hearing a great deal about the establishment of an American-style university in our part of the world. Several individuals (primarily investors) and private organisations have expressed the desire or intention (publically and privately) to erect an AUA (American University of Amman), an AUS (American University of Salt), an AUZ (American University of Zarqa), an AUN (American University of Nablus), and so on — the model being of course, and somewhat justifiably so, the American University in Beirut (in its good old days, that is). Others have in mind specific American, British and French universities.

The idea behind all of this is not so much the introduction of any particular Western style of education as in fact the creation of a university which offers quality education. People in our part of the world, including academics and educators, seem to agree that quality education at the university level is generally lacking in our society. We do not have, they all seem to agree, anything that comes close to Harvard, Oxford, the Sorbonne, Princeton, UCLA, etc. And they are right.

One thing must be made clear from the beginning. We do have a lot of respect for our public universities (with respect to private universities, it is still too early to feel or make judgement). Undoubtedly, they have contributed (and still do) to the progress of our society in ways which are obvious and ways which aren't. They do fill an important gap and render a crucial service. Nevertheless, they do not (generally speaking), for reasons which most of us know, live up to our expectations. With the admission policies the way they are (policies which are forced upon the universities by society at large), with their extremely conservative (and somewhat old-fashioned) philosophies of education, with the outdated methods of instruction which many of their faculty members still cherish, with their rusty study plans unto which they cling firmly, with the alarming size of students in many courses, with the hollow campus life, it is indeed amazing that these universities are still alive and kicking and are still contributing. One thing we admit, however, with a grain of salt: even though these universities do have (or have had) their moments or seasons of distinction and glory, their overall performance is largely undistinguished and inglorious.

The crucial matter here then is not whether we actually need a distinguished university or not, for we do; it is, rather, whether it is possible to create a distinguished university in our society or not.

In theory, of course, it is possible. Everything is possible in theory. In practice, it is a difficult matter, very difficult. Notice that I say "difficult," not impossible.

Allow me, by way of illustrating the difficulty, to tell you the following anecdote which is a true and not hypothetical story.

A few years ago (in 1990 in particular), I took a sabbatical from Yarmouk University with the intention of spending a year at one of our private universities. I had a couple of options to choose from, and the university I chose (let's not name it), I chose because I liked what I heard from the board of directors.

In the press and media, in the interview, and in the various informal gatherings I attended before and after I signed the contract, I was impressed and pleased with what the custodians were saying. They said they wanted "quality education," "distinguished graduates," "sharp minds," "students who know how to think," "meaningful and rich campus life," "a sophisticated syllabus," "an atmosphere of true intellectual exchange," "student involvement in the life of the university and community, etc., i.e. all the things we dream about.

Naive as I was then (I am now a little shrewder, sceptical and wiser), I swallowed all the rhetoric. But it did not take me long to discover that much of what I heard (if not all) was mere words. The series of surprises (too long to be enumerated here) began the first day of work. The first day I arrived on campus, I heard of the various appointments: the president, the dean, the heads of faculties, of public relations, of students activities, etc. I was stunned. While some of those appointed (and I knew the vast majority of them) were very good or excellent people, most were not. Most were either mediocre or extremely inefficient and uncreative. The first question that came to my mind was, how can you create a distinguished university when its academic administrators (or most of them i.e. the "masterminds," were not themselves distinguished. The days which followed proved that my feeling of surprise and disappointment was quite justified, for the first year of the life of that particular university was a disaster. The year over, I thanked God and left.

I shall cite two incidents to illustrate the mentality which "guided" and "led" the university that year. During an informal gathering, some people brought up the question whether the number of students who had registered was substantial enough. One of the "masterminds," who the day before delivered a speech about the institution's insistence to admit only able and exceptional students, said: "Don't you guys worry about numbers. I can go to the vegetable market now and bring you a 100 students." He was not joking. I have all respect for people who sell vegetables and people who buy vegetables, but isn't there a big difference, when it comes to university admission, between excellent students (or those who are potentially excellent) and "vegetable" heads?

At a general meeting, one person made it known that some faculty members were critical of the way things were going. Another "mastermind," whose face turned red with anger, instead of asking what those "reservations or criticism were, stood up and said: "Those who are not happy with us can pack and leave. I can travel to Egypt tomorrow and get a 100 doctors." And he also was not joking.

During that year, I did not see any serious intellectual encounter, any real campus life (by two o'clock the campus was as deserted as Petra on a January nights), any indication that things were different from other humble institutions, any true pride in what people were doing, any promise of a glorious future, and so on.

This is not to say, obviously, that all projects aiming at creating a distinguished university will meet the fate of that particular unhappy project or that we should bury the idea of a distinguished university once and for all. No. What I wish to say here (and this is what has been burning in my chest since that unfortunate sabbatical years) is the following. If we want to erect a truly distinguished university, we have to do our homework right, which is easier said than done in a part of the world in which neglect of homework is as common as flies in the Jordan Valley.

Much needs to be taken seriously and done diligently, if the idea is to come into existence. We need to work hard, to sweat, to select carefully, to scrutinise, to think and debate, and to be honest with ourselves and with others. More specifically, we need to be aware of and to do the following (among other obvious things):

— A university is one thing, a business venture is another thing. There is no doubt, of course, that money is needed to make available a great university. Education is costly: salaries, facilities, equipment, expenses of all types. One may have to pay high tuition to get good education: Harvard is costly, and so are most of the world-renowned universities. But most distinguished universities I know of are not business ventures, even though they are self-supporting. It may be possible for universities to bring money for those who invest in them, but if the sole or primary aim is money, I do not think that the institution will live up to its various educational claims or ideals, for the owners will find themselves going to the vegetable markets to get students and will find themselves importing doctors wholesale.

Behind every great university I know of is an idea, a vision, a real dream, not a dollar, a pound or a dinar. Those who want to establish a great university in our part of the world should ask themselves about their true motives.

— You cannot create a distinguished university, if the leading team you choose to govern it is not itself distinguished, beginning with the guard at the gate and ending with the university council. This, of course, we all know, but how do we go about doing it. Well, difficult no doubt, but worth the effort. And it is effort that we basically want. If we want to appoint a dean or a head of department, what we need to do is our homework. We need to advertise to everyone, and now just to our clique or our buddies. We need to look into the background of the person we choose; I do not choose a person just because he is "experienced" or has "seniority." After a while everybody is "experienced" and everybody has "seniority." Does the fact that someone is older or has been doing the job longer than others make this person more qualified? No. Does the fact that this person has held the same job before make this person more qualified? No, for we now how people in our part of the world are generally selected for jobs. We need to look carefully at the history of this person, from his/her school days into the present, and we have to ask and inquire.

If I want to choose a university professor, for example, I look at his school certificate from Kindergarten to the PhD. Otherwise, why do we have schools and universities? I also look at his publications, at the university he graduated from. I ask his former students about him, I ask his colleagues. I conduct real interviews and listen to him, not lecture at him during the interview, etc.

— As for the students, I take the Tawjihi score seriously. But I also look at other things. I ask them to write and examine their writing seriously, for writing is one of the best ways of judging how a person thinks and how much he knows. I also conduct interviews with them. I look at recommendations from teachers. Then I select.

This is what Harvard, Yale and Princeton do.

We need to do this and more if we want to create a distinguished educational institution. Otherwise, what we say either remains in the realm of wishful thinking, of far-fetched dreams, of fantasy, of whim, or materialises into something mediocre or poor.

We have in our society founders with sound motives, excellent academic administrators, talented university professors and superb students. But they are scattered all over and are somewhat marginalised and invisible. The trick is to reach out to them, bring them together and let them be. I seriously doubt that we can do that, even though I hope I will be proven wrong.

Terrorist Israeli movement seems to be reemerging

By Doug Struck

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A radical Jewish group claimed that its members shot and killed a Palestinian this week, suggesting the reemergence of the violent underground movement that has long worried Israeli authorities.

Five men dressed as Israeli soldiers broke into several Palestinian homes near Hebron, roosted the residents, tied up an elderly man and shot to death his son about 1 a.m., according to police reports.

The army said none of its soldiers was in the area.

Later Friday, a group called Eyal, which means "ram" in Hebrew and is an acronym for "Fighting Jewish Organisation," claimed responsibility for the killing.

"Eyal intends to step up the struggle in anticipation of the (peace) agreements" between Israel and the Palestinians, the group said in a statement sent to journalists.

Police have known previously of Eyal as a group based among the right-wing settlers of Kiryat Arba near Hebron, and an offshoot of Kach, a racist group officially declared a terrorist organisation by Israel.

In March, police found a manual on paramilitary training written by Eyal on a Kiryat Arba demonstrator carrying a loaded pistol.

Israeli police and army officials were cautious about Friday's claim, but they did not discuss it.

"All avenues are being pursued," said Boaz Goldberg, a police spokesman. The claim "may possibly" be true, he said.

Palestinians in the town of Halhul, north of Hebron, said the intruders broke into six Palestinian homes early in the morning. The men were dressed as Israeli soldiers, and at least one wore a mask.

Hussein Salman Al Zamamra said the men demanded his identity card, and then handcuffed him behind his back. His son, Salman, 25, arrived at his house just then, the elder man told Voice of Palestine Radio.

"The soldiers fired two shots. I heard one and then the other. Then I saw my son on the floor." He had been shot in the head.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fateh faction issued a statement claiming that "an Israeli soldier shot him without any provocation." The army said it had no knowledge of soldiers in the area and said the incident was carried out by "a number of unknowns in Israeli Defence uniforms."

Mr. Al Zamamra, identified as a Fatah activist, was buried Friday as Palestinians announced a three-day strike. Israeli authorities have long feared that the failure of the right wing to stop the progress of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations would result in violent opposition.

They are especially wary of such groups forming among the Jewish settlers of Hebron and adjoining Kiryat Arba, which was the focus of a Jewish underground of the early 1980s.

Members of that group tried to assassinate three Palestinian mayors in 1980, planted bombs on tourist buses and Arab playgrounds, made plans to try to blow up to the Dome of the Rock and attacked students in an Islamic college in Hebron in 1983 with a grenade and machine guns, killing three and wounding 33.

About 25 of the group members were tried and convicted. But many were quickly released while still publicly boasting of their acts, and critics have long complained that the chief promoter of the group, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, remains free.

As Israel and the Palestinians have moved towards implementing their 1993 peace accord, which promises withdrawal of the Israeli army from Arab population centres in the West Bank, radicals on both sides have fought the peace process.

Since the Israel-PLO accord was signed two years ago, dozens of Israelis have been killed in terrorist attacks, including suicide bus bombs claimed by Hamas and other Islamic fundamentalist groups.

On the Jewish side, one of the bloodiest incidents was an individual act in which a Kiryat Arba settler, physician Baruch Goldstein, killed 29 worshippers at Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron in February 1994.

Israeli authorities have been most worried by organised violence. In December 1993, a group calling itself the "Sword of David" claimed responsibility for the murder of three Palestinian workers near Hebron.

In September and October 1994, police arrested 14 Jewish settlers, including an officer in an elite army unit, on suspicion of gathering weapons and plotting violence against Palestinians. Most were freed, although the charges revealed that Israel's intelligence service had begun infiltrating Jewish right-wing organisations.

Security reportedly has been increased around Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Opponents often denounce both leaders as "traitors" and "murderers."

Mr. Rabin has fanned the anger of those opponents by publicly comparing them to Hamas, the Islamic radical group that has carried out a series of violent acts in opposition to the peace plan.

Baltimore Sun

LETTERS

Wadi Araba airport project is well-studied

To the Editor:

IN HIS article, "No justification for a joint Wadi Araba airport" (Jordan Times, Sept. 9), Dr. Fahed Al Fanek distorted the true picture for lack of information. We would like to clarify and correct some important aspects concerning the article. It would have been highly appreciated had Dr. Fanek sought valid information about the Aqaba airport development project from the proper authorities.

Jordan is at a transition stage in its history where productive and professional thoughts and ideas are well appreciated and welcome by officials at all times.

The idea of the Wadi Araba airport project came after careful study and analysis by officials and after being perceived as beneficial to Jordan in the long run. Thus, the decision to embark on a detailed feasibility study to verify this idea was undertaken and the study will be carried out by the Trade and Development Agency (TDA) and not the USAID as stated by Dr. Fanek. The decision to embark on this is, of course subject and dependent on the outcome of the technical and economic feasibility studies that will involve detailed sensitivity analysis that address the viability of the project under changes in assumptions and postulated circumstance. Thus, it is too early to conclude, as Dr. Fanek has already concluded, that there is "no justification" for this project. We know that Dr. Fanek has the background and education not to judge the feasibility of a project based merely on his feelings but to base his judgement on the results of proper feasibility studies and cost benefit analysis.

The government of Jordan is by no means willing to show readiness for any project merely to "please." Such a view undermines the government and questions its integrity if the party the government is trying to please is other than the people of Jordan. We wonder who is it that Dr. Fanek suggested that we are trying to please? The government of Jordan has, and is, working hard to gain benefits in the short and long runs from opportunities that the present era of peace presents. Furthermore, only proper cost and benefit calculations and analysis will affect Jordan's decision to embark on this or any other project.

We also try to remind Dr. Fanek of one of the basic principles achieved by such a project and that is "economies of scale." A major advantage of joint projects and financing is achieving economies of scale that result in overall savings and a better utilisation of scarce resources.

Some of the more specific comments on Dr. Fanek's article include:

Dr. Fanek stated that the present size and capacity of Aqaba airport was more than sufficient to accommodate present and future traffic. We are curious to know where Dr. Fanek got this information from?

Aqaba Airport at its present size and facilities cannot accommodate the desired movement of international flights. It has just one runway and a small terminal building, which can accommodate one passenger airplane only. Indeed there are no taxiways. The smallness and lack of facilities at Aqaba Airport were clearly demonstrated when it had to accommodate the large traffic of planes during the signing of the peace agreement in Wadi Araba last year. From the operational viewpoint, there have been many complications in air operations due to the nearness of the airport site to the international ceasefire line with Israel. The stantard air corridors for Israel and Jordan in the region are adjacent and this led to many technical difficulties. Increase in traffic and tourism in the region are adjacent and this led to many technical difficulties. Increase in traffic and tourism in the region will necessitate the arrival of big sized aircraft having various speeds which need the previous coordination with neighbouring countries, including Israel, to ensure the safety of planes and passengers.

It is also seriously considered by the government to involve the private sector in this project and it is studying options for private sector participation including schemes such as the BOT and others. If Dr. Fanek had consulted with us, we would have eased his concern about subjecting the government's budget to further pressure.

Furthermore, the role and resources input of both parties (Jordan and Israel) will be well studied and defined. The benefits to each party will be proportional to the participation of each side. Thus, we assure Dr. Fanek that options for funding this project and the degree of participation of each party will be studied in a detailed manner by the Jordanian officials to secure Jordan's benefits and revenues from such a project and ensure the sustainability of these benefits and revenues in the long run.

To further clarify perceptions about this project, we would like to clarify that the only joint aspect in this project between Jordan and Israel is the terminal and that too will be divided, with full Jordanian sovereignty on its side. The control of approach and runway will be fully under the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority. Furthermore, Jordan will have full ownership of all facilities on its side.

Furthermore, we assure the people and Dr. Fanek that we shall not embark on this or any project, if it may result in jeopardising or adversely affecting Jordan and its people at any time.

Last but not least, we invite Dr. Fanek to join us in our effort of formulating ideas on this subject and welcome productive input at any time.

Ahmad Jweiber,
Director General,
Civil Aviation Authority,
Amman.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

When they mean business, businessmen move

Last week when the Jordan Times carried a supposedly full translation of His Majesty King Hussein's interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat, a Saudi Arabian owned Arabic daily published in London, one material question and the King's, possibly consequential, response were inadvertently omitted from the text. They were: Al Sharq Al Awsat: Your country's foreign policy has been described as "Kabaritistic" (after the name of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti). How would you respond to that? King Hussein: Our foreign minister is one of our promising young men, but our policy is not of the making of one person but rather it reflects the outcome of our convictions. With the maintenance of the status quo of the current Cabinet thus far, any consequence of the King's response is not yet apparent. What is vividly clear, though, is that the consequences of what some may call "Kabaritiism", particularly the warming of relations with Saudi Arabia, have still not in the arrival in Amman of the new Saudi ambassador, which was expected to happen in early September. In fact invitations to a reception to mark that country's national day later this month were sent out under the name of Acting Chargé d'Affaires Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Bassam. The fact that the event will be hosted by Mr. Bassam means that the designated envoy, Abdullah Sudeiri, who is a veteran diplomat and a relative of King Fahd, will not be arriving anytime soon. What is causing the delay in the ambassador's arrival is a matter for politicians to question and ponder. All we can tell you in this column is that Amman has been teeming with apolitical Saudi visitors. Two such visitors this week were businessmen representing SKAB, a large Jeddah-based enterprise headed by Mussalam Musallam. The two men were here looking into business opportunities. While diplomatic breakthroughs were moving less swiftly, visits by such businessmen may accelerate activities in all areas.

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GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF IT: *On the move again, though in the confines of his own country, is George Haddad, a former secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works, and, until recently, director of the Government Tenders Directorate. Mr. Haddad was retired from his last job three weeks ago, and all he is doing now is just seeking answers to why his services were no longer required by the government. The 51-year-old Mr. Haddad says that his 27-year record with the government has been good, and that is precisely why, as a public servant, he will pursue his rights to first determine what reasons the government had to dismiss him. He says he may seek legal recourse if he finds no satisfactory answers, just as Falah Kodah did not so long ago and regained his old job as director of the Free Zones Corporation through a court order. After he left the Ministry of Public Works as its secretary general, Mr. Haddad was made an advisor to the Prime Ministry, but only for a short period of time, after which he was reassigned (on Sept. 1, 1994) to his former ministry, but this time as head of the tenders directorate. Mr. Haddad, who is nonplussed about his forced retirement, said it appears to be simply his misfortune to have been brought back under the same minister because this time his was not a matter of being reassigned; the decision was more permanent. The new head of the directorate is Nasser Madadhah who is making the switch to government from the private sector. Mr. Madadhah, who is nearing 50, is an engineer with degrees from Chelsea College in England and from the U.S. Although the change from private to public sector is usually much less lucrative, Mr. Madadhah comes from a family of public servants. His father, Fellah Madadhah was a former Minister of Interior and held the post of Military Governor in the 1950s. Although a powerful man, the senior Madadhah is also remembered as living modestly in downtown Amman and queueing on line at the bakery to bring bread home to his family. A brother of Nasser, Ghaleb, is Area Manager for Royal Jordanian in Madrid, and another brother, Abdullah has just been appointed envoy to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva. The eldest Madadhah brother is Khaled, who is Jordan's ambassador in Brussels. One of their two sisters, Salma, was also a public servant, who recently retired from the Ministry of Information at her own request. The last job she held was as director of internatianal relations. Their other sister, Salwa, is the head of documentation and research at the Ministry of Education.*

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'BUILDING' ON AN INVESTMENT: *Public service may attract some, but business is what has investors in Al Aswaq Arabic travelling these days. Chairman of Jordan-Gulf Bank Zuheir Awartani, also the major shareholder in Al Aswaq, was to have travelled to France Wednesday to continue formulating an agreement with a French taurism industry firm (owners of the Sofitel hotel chain) on creating a joint company that would look into building five hotels in Jordan. The joint firm would start by constructing a 10-stary hotel over the existing Al Aswaq offices (formerly Sawt Al Shaab) right across the street from Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times. An interested porty said that the building was originally intented to be a hotel and therefore there was nothing odd about 10 floors going up above it. The four or five Jordanian investors, agreed thus far with their French counterparts to a capital of $30 million. If all goes well, folks at Al Ra'i will no longer have to go far for a place to dine or to take in a soothing sauna after a hard day's work. And with backing from a well-established and experienced line of hoteliers like Sofitel, the Jordanian side of the pact should have little trouble in seeing their venture to success.*

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RULES ARE RULES: *As hotels go, they are popping up all over even though the Ministry of Tourism is advising prospective owners to study carefully the feasibility of entering such a business. (See story page 3) While the ministry cannot force entrepreneurs to take such advice, it can require current hoteliers to abide by regulations. Notice the new sleek Carlton Hotel across the street from the Jordan Inter-Continental. One would hardly recognise it as the former premises of the U.S. embassy after businessman Ma'awiah Dubian converted it into a fresh new establishment. But the snooze-no-booze hotel has not been without its own encounters whh the authorities. Ministry of Tourism officials say that they were forced thrice to enter the hotel and demand that is guests be transferred to another establishment because the Carlton had not completely fulfilled the requirements necessary to start operating. The ministry says it was adamant about applying the law on all three occasions despite pressure from highly influential individuals, some of whom happen to be on the board of the hotel's directors. Sticking to their guns, the ministry said that when the hotel finally demonstrated that it had complied with the requirements, it only took the ministry 10 minutes to issue them the necessary permit to operate. But the struggle was not over. There was still Amman Municipality regulations to contend with, and taking the example of the Ministry of Tourism, municipality officials arrived one day at the hotel and demanded that until a requirement of theirs was met, guests would have to be vacated. That would explain a large group of people spotted hauling luggage out of the hotel a few weeks ago. Some observers even insisted that a few of the guests were still in their sleepwear. The message is two-fold, according the the ministry: "no regs, no beds" and "enforcement of the law is non-discriminatory."*

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RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE: *There are certainly no eviction worries for Marcelle M. Wahbah who has arrived to take the place vacated at the U.S. Embassy by Peter Kovach as Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs. Ms. Wahbah, an Egyptian-American, joined the foreign service in 1986. She was deputy policy officer in the Near East office of the United States Information Agency from 1987 to 1988, then was assigned to her birthplace, Cairo, to serve as press attaché from 1988 to 1991. Her post prior to her arrival in Amman just over three weeks ago was public affairs officer at the U.S. embassy in Nicosia. Ms. Wahbah, whose family immigrated to the U.S. in the 1960s, graduated from Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio with a bachelors in political science and a minor in international relations. She is married to management consultant Derek Farwagi, an Egyptian-Briton. The couple have one daughter. Ms. Wahbah's colleagues at the embassy say she is delighted about her new post. "She says its the right time to come to Jordan," a member of her staff said.*

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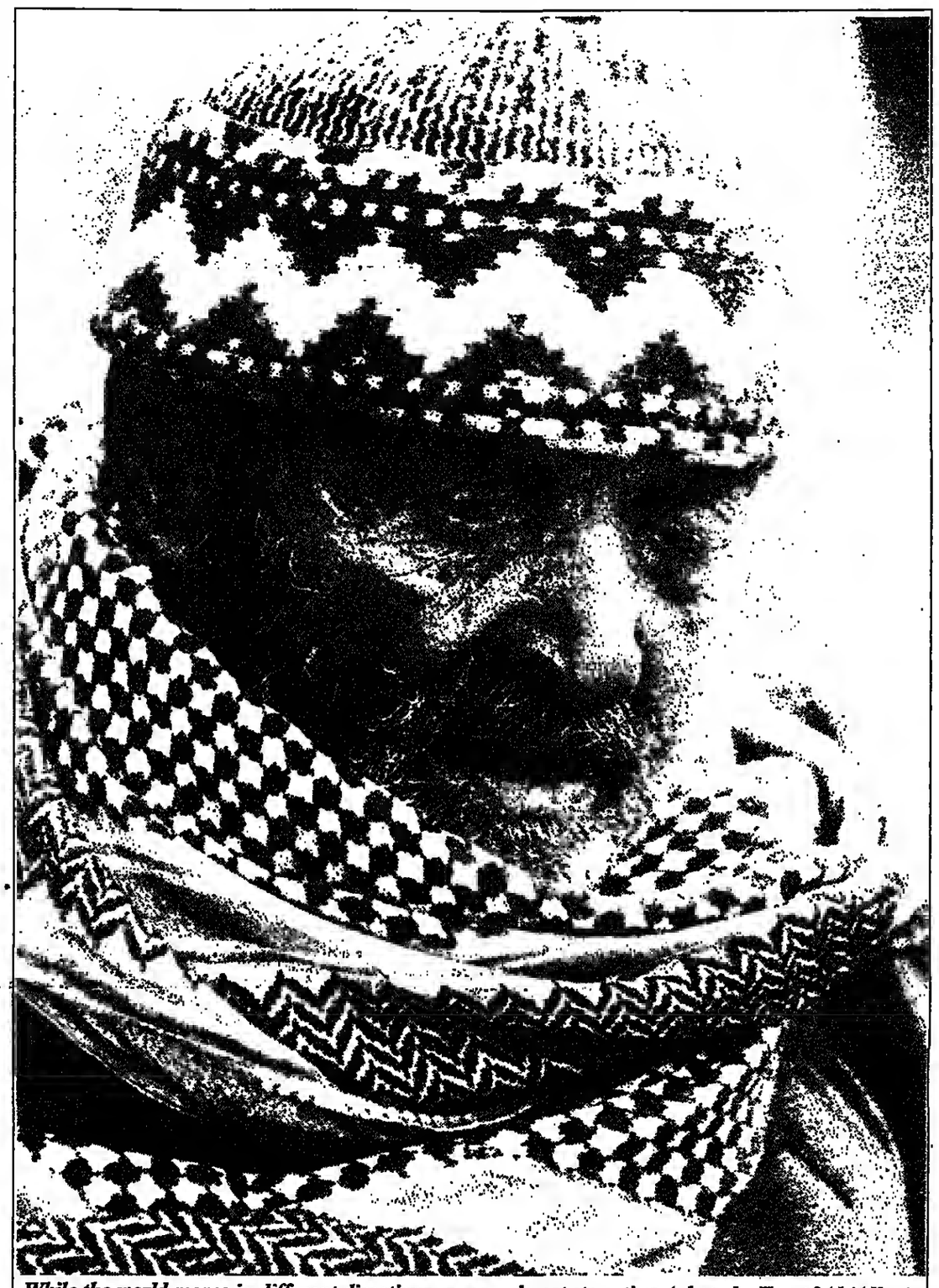
WHEN IN AMMAN: *That must be how Harold Pachios feels as well. Mr. Pachios is commissioner of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, founded by the U.S. Congress and comprised of seven or eight individuals with varied experience in public and foreign service and policy. Mr. Pachios served in the Kennedy administration as a public affairs officer and congressional liaison officer. He was appointed as associate White House press secretary, serving as principal aide to press secretary Bill Moyers during the Lyndon Johnson presidency. Mr. Pachios was chairman of the Maine Democratic Party for four years, and was the Democratic nominee for Congress in Maine's first congressional district in 1980. He received an A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1959 and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Georgetown University in 1965. Mr. Pachios' visit here is to take a look at how the U.S. embassy interacts with Jordanian society by meeting with embassy staff counterparts in Jordan. He will spend two days here next week, during which Ambassador Wesley Egan will host a lunch in his honour to which Jordanian academicians and journalists have been invited. Mr. Pachios will also meet with other Jordanians in a less official manner, probably to sense the character of the "art" of diplomacy that is called for between Jordanians and Americans.*



While the world moves in different directions, a man almost stops time (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

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WHAT TOOK SO LONG? *Another form of diplomacy was in the works last week when Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan, William Habib, hosted a dinner for about 60 founding members of the newly-formed Jordanian-Lebanese Society (JLS) where they appointed an executive committee. Mr. Habib said that Jordan has many such bi-national societies and the founders felt it was high time Jordanians and Lebanese form their own group to organise cultural and economic activites. The executive committee, made up of Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti, Minister of Transport Samir Kawar, Senator Laila Sharaf, Dr. Kamal Shaer, former Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Ibrahim Izzedine, Dr. Ghaith Shubeilat, Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, Emil Haddad, Samia S. Mango, Fuad Abud Hamdan and Dr. Sami Halabi, will meet again at Ambassador Habib's residence to decide on plans for an annual dinner. The purpose of the dinner is to get together and to draw in new members. So for all those interested we will try to keep you posted on JLS movements.*

Jennifer Hamarneh

U.N and the advancement of women

BOOK REVIEW

United Nations And The Advancement Of Women, 1945-1995

Sixth volume

Blue Books series

Throughout its first half century, the United Nations has served as a catalyst for the global advancement of women. Working to promote the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination enshrined in its charter, the United Nations has been instrumental in promoting recognition of women's fundamental human rights, in codifying those rights in legally binding international agreements and in fostering greater understanding of the central role played by women in economic and social development and in peace-building.

A full account of these efforts is now available in the United Nations And The Advancement Of Women, 1945-1995, the sixth volume in the "Blue Books" published by the Department of Public Information (DPI). The book, which includes a comprehensive collection of historic United Nations documents, is on sale in the United Nations Bookstore in New York and will be available in Geneva and other bookstores worldwide. It will also be on sale, along with a Chinese edition, at the fourth World Conference on Women, currently being held in Beijing.

The United Nations And The Advancement Of Women, 1945-1995 recounts the decades of struggle to elevate the human rights of women to a prominent place on the international agenda. From its initial focus on the establishment of women's legal and civil rights, the work of the organisation has widened in scope to include the indispensable role played by women in addressing critical issues facing the world in the late twentieth century: Poverty, unemployment, social disintegration, unchecked population growth, human rights abuses, environmental degradation, militarism. As Secretary-General Boutros Ghali writes in his extensive introduction: "No enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment of the world's women."

The book traces the history of a campaign which began at a time when women's civil and political rights existed in only a handful of countries. The campaign came to combine technical and development assistance with legal standard setting, diplomacy and public education. Early efforts centred on securing women's legal equality and produced a series of ground-breaking conventions, declarations and other instruments designed to promote and protect women's political and civil rights, in fact as well as law. As governments adopted laws and programmes to protect women's rights, the organisation's focus broadened to encompass the economic and social realities of women's daily lives. Such matters as policy formulation, attitude change, political commitment and institution-building came to the forefront, particularly as they affected women in developing countries.

In recent years, codification and implementation have given way in an era of new and more complex challenges, in which the political and economic empowerment of women is seen increasingly as the key not only to ending gender discrimination but to eradicating poverty, enhancing productive employment and ending social disintegration. The United Nations has also played a central role in expanding the concept of women's rights beyond political and family life to encompass such human rights as equal access to education, employment and health care and to address such urgent issues such as violence against women.

The more than 100 documents reproduced in this volume are indexed for easy access and use and include the following:

— The landmark 1979 convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women'

— International conventions on the political rights of women and the nationality of married women'

— Action plans, declarations and resolutions adopted at the series of world conferences on women beginning in Mexico City in 1975 and including the 1985 Nairobi forward-looking strategies;

— Resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council; and

— United Nations surveys and statistics on the status of women worldwide.

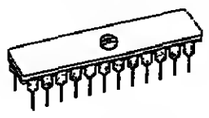
In addition to the collection of documents and the introduction by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the United Nations And The Advancement Of Women, 1945-1995 features detailed chronologies of events and United Nations conferences and seminars.

The "Blue Books" cover major developments of the past five decades in which the United Nations has played a leading role. The series is designed to provide primary research and reference tools for historians, policy makers, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the organisation.

The first book in the series, the United Nations And Apartheid, 1948-1994, was published in December 1994. Also available are the United Nations And Cambodia, 1991-1995' the United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation; the United Nations And El Salvador, 1990-1995; the United Nations And Mozambique, 1992-1995; and the United Nations And Human Rights, 1945-1995. The last is available in French; the English edition is scheduled for publication in September.

More on CD-ROMs

chip talk



By Jean-Claude Elias

If CD-ROMs (computer digital laser discs) owe their success chiefly to electronic encyclopedias and dictionaries, PC users now have many a reason to acquire a CD-ROM drive and not a single excuse to avoid the purchase. Indeed, in addition to titles that have become classics, like the Encarta and Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedias, and to countless computer games, regular software and programmes are now being distributed on CD-ROM discs instead of regular floppy discs.

Laser discs are infinitely more reliable than magnetic models. In theory, data integrity is maintained for many decades on an optical media. With the large amount of data they can hold and their reduced dimension and weight, CD-ROMs make almost perfect storage devices. It is therefore no surprise that software that used to take several floppy disks is now available in the new laser format.

Microsoft Office Suite for instance, a set comprising "Windows" system, "Word" word processor, "Excel" spreadsheet and "Access" data base, requires about 28 small floppy disks to be stored — a bulky set of 3 boxes of discs. When the user starts the installation procedure for all of the programmes of the Suite, the first disc must be inserted in the PC cabinet until the computer has read all the data it needs from it, then the second disc, and so on until the last one. The operation is long, tedious and risky. For if one of the discs in the whole set is damaged, it may cause the installation to fail. The whole Office Suite easily fits on a single CD-ROM disc. Floppy medias are read and write devices and as such they are easily infected by viruses, while CD-ROMs are read-only and cannot be attacked by the dreaded "creatures."

Last week, following the much publicised launch of Windows 95, many of those users who ordered the software on floppy instead of CD-ROM, had one of their diskettes (floppy disc) destroyed by a virus. Microsoft did replace the damaged diskette but a lot of time and effort was wasted. More and more users are relying on the safety, speed and convenience offered by laser technology for data storage.

Initially, CD-ROMs had a much slower access time than magnetic hard disks. The first single-speed units manufactured claimed a disastrous 600 ms (millisecond) performance. By comparison, hard discs work at about 10 to 18 ms. The current double-speed CD-ROM boasts 300 ms and the most recent models, quad-speed and "6 x speed" have attained 150 ms. The transfer rate, the amount of data that the drive can read and move from the disc to the computer, per second, is equally important and is generally proportional to the access time. Speed of access and high transfer rates are not only a luxury that saves time, they become an absolute requirement for some applications like advanced multimedia, music or Photo Sessions (a Kodak technique).

Older models of CD-ROM drives required additional caddie, a small plastic container in which one would insert the disc, and then the caddie would be inserted in the drive — a time-consuming and useless operation. New drives are caddie-free, have motorised loading, and plenty of front controls for audio output and tracking. They make operating the device a pleasure.

Double-speed units are being advertised at about JD100. Can you resist?

The early bird catches the worm...er, maybe

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Today, this column gives you the chance to put your minds at ease and put forward any queries you may have into our great big computer that, as our supplier assures us, could answer any question laid before it. However, be warned that your queries will only be received through E-mail.

— Now that it has become permissible and fashionable to talk about traffic problems and special yellow paint for roads, does this also mean that it has become possible to call drivers misguided, irresponsible and stupid?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— If we are truly worried about the congestion caused by the cars of expatriates during the summer months, then why don't we make them leave their cars at the borders and travel through public transport?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— Universities now seem to have a case for raising their fees. It would seem all folly, but one cannot help but wonder whether the whole fuss was about thinking up an excuse to make a case for raising the fees stamped with everyone's approval. Could such a scenario be, in the remotest sense plausible?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— If there are far better odds available in other sorts of gambling and certainly more efficient ways of giving money to charity, don't you think that this makes a lottery a tax on stupidity?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— While promoting foreign investment seems to take priority over raising the prices through hikes in sales taxes, how far does any country have to go before it is made more attractive for businessmen?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— If our university graduates are not the only ones around the world who have a problem in finding a job after their graduation as, admittedly, this is a common problem the world over, what the hell is all the fuss about?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

— While a case has been put forward for involving local people in tourism beyond their roles as guides, porters or trackers, or as waiters, sellers of arts and crafts or models for photographs, do we even know what these people's vision of development is or whether it involves tourists in the first place?

— Dear person, while your query is both legitimate and just, it will do you no good if you indulge in such oddities for there must be far more important issues out there that you, or anyone else, should be talking about.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 14, 1995

1:00 1 ris - The Happy Professor
1:15 Fireman Sam
1:30 My Secret Identity
2:00 N.B.A.
3:00 Bill Eye The Science Guy
3:30...Take Your Pick
4:00 Dead Men's Tales
4:20 1 witness Video
5:00 Children's Programme
Rahan— "Les Enfants Du Flenve"
5:30 Varieties And Game Show
Le Monde Est A Vous
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Court Metrage
Vision
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 National Geographic
8:30 The Album Show
9:15 Murder She Wrote
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie— Crimson Dawn
Starring: Franco Nero & Karin Giegerich
11:50 Shogun
12:30 Perfect Strangers

Friday, Sept. 15, 1995

1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee
1:15 Beethoven
1:30 Why I Didn't Think Of That
2:00 White Fang
2:30 Movie— The Old Man And The Sea
Starring: Anthony Quinn & Gary Cole
4:00 Crystal Maze
5:00 Children Programme
Rahan — "La Mort De Rahan"
5:30 Telefilm — Les Femmes Et Les Enfants D'Abord
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
E=M6
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 African Skies
8:00 Coach
8:30 Documentary—Nomads Of The Wind
9:15 Danger Field
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — Mercy Mission:
The Rescue Of Flight 771
Starring: Robert Loggia & Scott Bakula
11:50 Elvis In Hollywood

Saturday, Sept. 16, 1995

2:00 Back To The Future
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
3:00 Road To Avonlea
3:30 Football Match
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Documentary
Les Bicentenaire Du Louvre
6:00 Drama Series
Operation Open I Et 2
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 The Ozone Alarm
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Women Of The World
9:10 Dr. Quinn Medcine Woman
"The Tale Of A Modern Woman In The Old West"
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — Overkill
Starring: Jean Smart & Park Overall
11:50 Noble House

Sunday, Sept. 17, 1995

[illegible]:00 The Flintstones
2:30 Joshua Jones
2:45 The Mighty Jungle
3:00 Pugwall's Summer
3:30 Football Match
4:00 Families
[illegible]:00 Children's Programme
Les Mondes Enloutis
5:30 Serie — L'Instit
Le J.A.P.
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Cinema, Cinema
8:00 Nurses
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 Strathblair
10:00 News In English
10:25 Counter Strike
11:10 Return To Eden
12:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Monday, Sept. 18, 1995

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood
2:30 Hey Dad!
3:00 Survival
4:00 Families
5:00 Children Programme
Les Mondes Engloutis Rahan
5:30 Telefilm
A Dieu Les Rosles
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Varieties
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Camp Wilder
8:00 McHale's Navy
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Harts Of The West
10:00 News In English
10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries
Kissing The Gunner's Daughter
11:30 Movie — The Dream Team
Starring: Michael Keaton & Christopher Llyod

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1995

2:00 Captain Planet
2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
3:00 Road To Avonlea
4:00 Families
5:00 Children's Programme
Les Monds Engloutis
5:30 Magazine
Montagne
5:50 Varieties
Taratata
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Faut Pas Reve
7:35 You Bet Your Life
8:00 Piglet Files
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 True Blue
10:00 News In English
10:25 Trade Winds
11:30 Glass Virgin
12:00 Grace Under Fire
12:30 Varieties

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1995

2:00 Inspector Gadget
2:30 Super Champs
3:00 Tomorrow's World
3:30 Amazing Stories
4:00 Families
5:00 Children's Programme
Les Aventures De Nestor Burma
5:30 Detective Telefilm
Les Aventures De Nestor Durma
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
8:00 Anything For A Laugh
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 Sea Powers
10:00 News In English
10:25 Prism
10:40 Blue Skies
11:45 Silk Road
12:30 Varieties

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

* In Mexico City, 180 mummies, preserved in a special museum, are placed in glass coffins for show.

* Snow Flake City in the United States was named after two of its founders Erastus "Snow" and William "Flake."

* An American possesses a collection of 10,000 kinds of books which the Australian aborigines used for fishing.

* In 1969, two Americans sailed in a dual rowing boat from Minnesota to Lake Ontario covering a distance of 11,000 kilometres.

* Astronomers have discovered a cloud containing 10 trillion litres of alcohol. This cloud is said to be the largest in the solar system and lying at a distance of 10,000 light years.

* In the past, tennis was called "the cat ball."

* * * * * *

LETS CHAT IN ARABIC

- The air is fresh.	**Al-hawa' alil.**
- The moon is shining	**Al-qamar yasta'.**
- The heat is unbearable.	**Al-harara la tuhtamal.**
- The sky is clear.	**Al-sama' saafia.**
- The sea is rough.	**Al-bahr ha'ij.**
- The rain is heavy.	**Al-matar ghazir.**
- The wind is calm.	**Ar-reeh saakin.**
- The mountains are high.	**Al-jibaal aalia.**
- The oceans are deep.	**Al-muheetat ameeqa.**
- The street is empty.	**Ash'sharie khaalen.**
- The beach is crowded.	**Ash'ahaati' muzdahim.**
- The car is new.	**As'sayyara jadeeda.**

* * * * * *

TIME FOR FUN

* An extravagant woman sent a telegram to her hard-hearing husband:
—"Send us fifty dinars."
In reply, the man wrote back:
—"What did you say?"

* * * * * *

* MOTHER: This fridge is so splendid that it preserves all foods for a whole month.
DAUGHTER: During a whole month? So, what could we eat then?

* * * * * *

WIFE: How much does this ring cost?
JEWELLER: JD 150.
On hearing this, the husband gave a long whistle and said, "Anyway, would you mind telling me the price of the ring next to it?"
JEWELLER: "Oh, that would make you whistle twice, my dear!"

* * * * * *

IN FOCUS

ANIMAL DEFENCE: Only the largest and strongest animals can live without fear of being caught and killed by meat-eating animals (carnivores).

Nearly every animal has some way of defending itself against enemies.

Some animals are swift and can outrun their enemies. Other, slower animals cannot escape by running away. They defend themselves by hiding in a safe place. To reduce the chances of being seen by their enemies, several animals spend all their lives in holes and crevices, and some are coloured in such a way that they go unnoticed against their background.

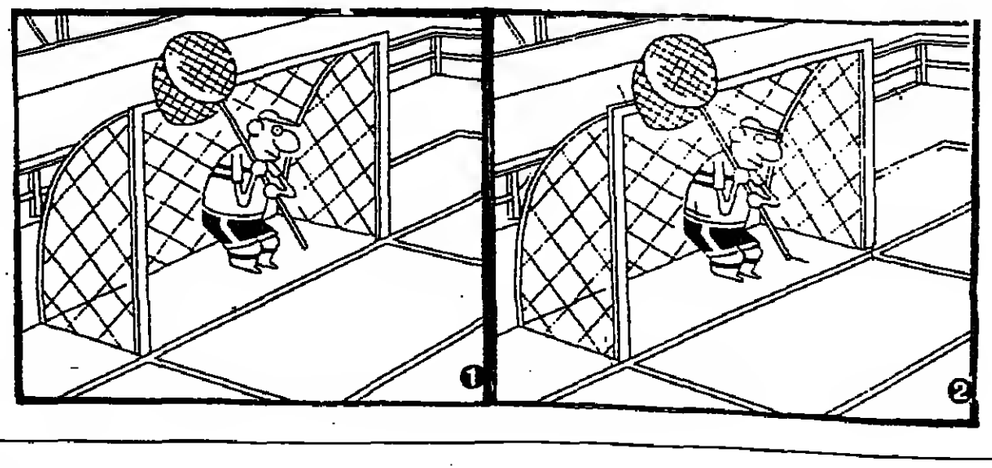
If an animal cannot escape its enemies, it has to try and protect itself. Many do so by biting, kicking or using horns or antlers. Other have special defences, such as stings or spines. A few animals pretend to be dead or injured when being attacked. Their enemy gives up and looks for a better meal elsewhere. To protect their head and body, many lizards cast off their tail for their enemy to eat. They grow a new tail.

* * * * * *

PUZZLE ME!

THERE ARE EIGHT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO CARTOONS

CAN YOU SPOT THEM?



Please don't feed the sculpture — London's living art

By Ron Kampeas
The Associated Press

LONDON — Nestled among art-lovers oohing and aahing the latest sculpture ("she's beautiful"), three art students are sketching the piece.

Hardly an uncommon gallery scene — until the sketchers shift because the "piece" has yawned and turned over.

The Maybe, an art exhibit with actress Tilda Swinton sleeping under glass as its centerpiece, has been drawing the curious to London's Serpentine Gallery — together with kudos and catcalls.

"The fundamental question is, what's it got to do with art?" said Brian Sewell, one of London's most caustic art critics. "It would be much better off, let's say, in Madame Tussaud's."

Swinton, acclaimed for her androgynous portrayals in films such as the late Derek Jarman's Edward II and Sally Potter's Orlando, conceived the show with sculptress Cornelia Parker, whose last show featured household junk she had exploded.

In a flier handed out at the event, Parker described The Maybe as " an enigmatic and evocative work, exploring a series of essential, unanswerable questions." Swinton was "the subject of her own narrative."

That sort of fuzziness gave English critics, famously eager to trash pseuds, a field day.

"Are women capable of coherent thought? There's an unanswerable question for you," Sewell told the Guardian newspaper, fuming at the £7,000 ($11,200) Arts Council grant that made the show possible.

The Daily Mail said only Swinton's restraint commended her. "She never makes contact with the motley crowd who come to observe her," it said. "Perhaps because both might burst out laughing."

"Maybe it's art, maybe it isn't," editorialised the Guardian. "Maybe if I hang around long enough, she'll have to go for a pee."

Not likely. Swinton, on display from 10 a.m until 6 p.m. For a week, practiced getting her body rhythms in sync before the week-long exhibit.

She stayed up nights for a week, taking herbal baths, so she could sleep days — although Parker acknowledged that some of the prospective excitement was in the actress feigning sleep, while eavesdropping on commentary.

Swinton lies in the booth on a thin white mattress, clutching her pillow, accompanied only by a tall glass of water set in a clamp, and her spectacles lying next to her. Watched over by two security guards, she snoozes in jeans, a man's shirt, Tai-Chi slippers and gray socks.

"After all, one has to suffer for one's art, " critic Robert Hewison smirked as he contemplated Swinton.

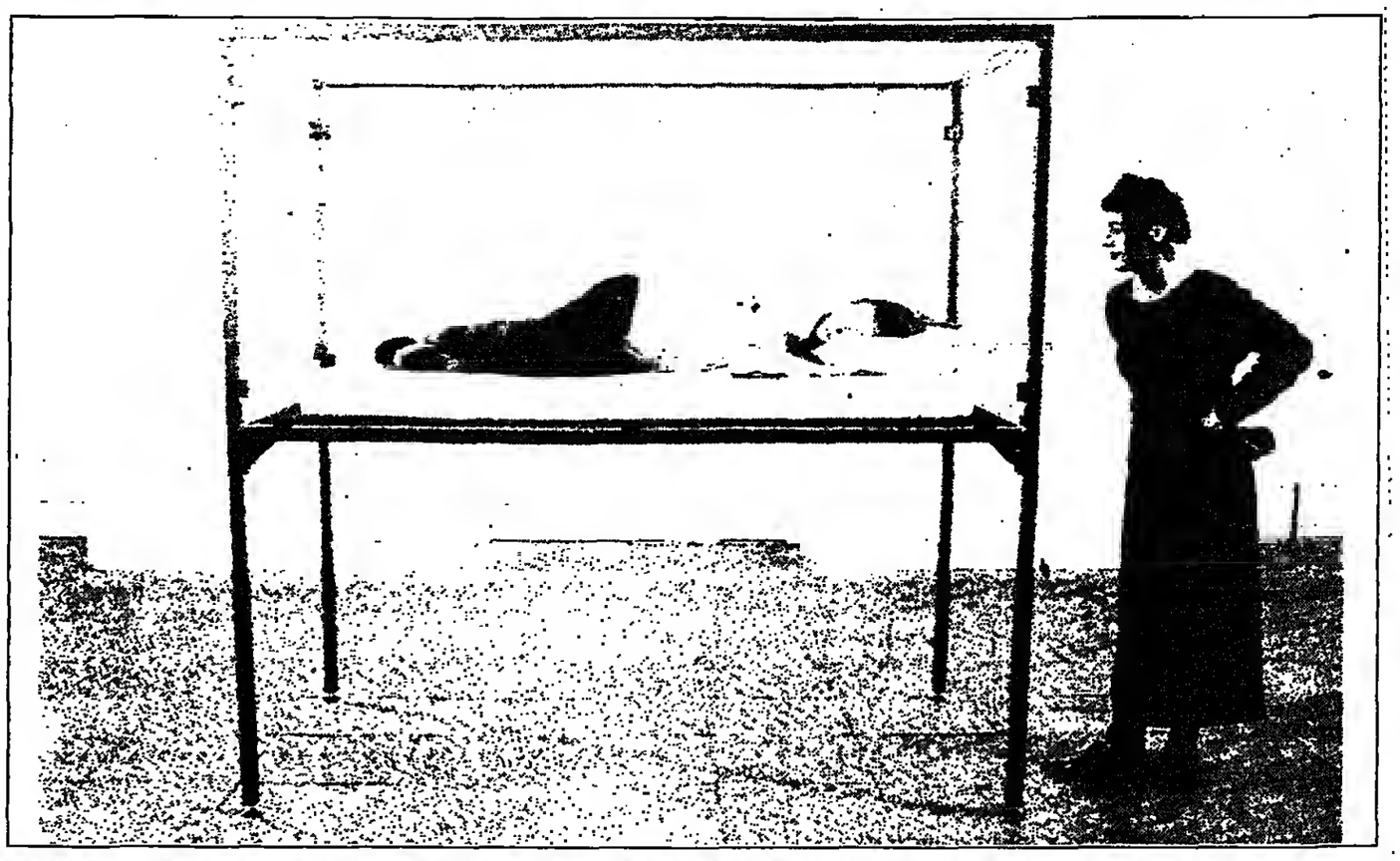
While the critics hooted, other gallery-goers were genuinely moved.

"I feel like I'm intruding," said Gruny Brenner, a painter. "It's like I'm walking in on an animal in its cage. I don't feel comfortable - and art is meant to disturb you, after all."

The exhibit in the converted teahouse, set in the staid lawns of Kensington Gardens, is in fact disquieting. a sensation Parker unfortunately undermines with her own "unanswerable questions" gibberish.

Before reaching Tilda, viewers walk past carefully selected glass-encased minutiae that belonged to the famous dead.

Florence Nightingale's school slate, her name and "from mama" scratched along the border in a childish hand; the hat David Livingstone wore when he encountered Henry Stanley at the source of the Nile in 1871, facing the pith helmet Stanley was wearing; Queen Victoria's unexpectedly small stocking; the cigar that tumbled out of Winston Churchill's mouth when he learned that the Germans were ready to surrender.



British actress Tilda Swinton sleeps in a glass box as part of an exhibition called The Maybe at the Serpentine Gallery (AFP photo)

The objects shrink monoliths to tangibility, and remind the viewer that great men and women were mortal and even endearing.

The culmination marked Matilda Swinton (1960 -) eerily punctuates the theme of mortality. Her oversized man's watch engulfs her wrist, the brunette roots of her red hair are clearly visible, her knuckles whiten as she clutches the pillow.

Children at the exhibit got it quickly, identifying Swinton with other vulnerables like Sleeping Beauty and Snow White. Grown-ups also found points of reference.

"I keep looking at the glasses," said John McCardle, a bespectacled civil servant. "What happens if she rolls over and crushes them?"

Italian film re-opens Pasolini murder case

By Claudia Parsons
Reuter

VENICE, Italy— A new film about the brutal murder of Italian director and poet Pier Paolo Pasolini has reopened a question that has troubled Italians for two decades — was Pasolini the victim of a sinister conspiracy?

Marxist poet, blasphemous film director and declared *homosexual, Pasolini died in* the early hours of Nov. 2, 1975, after picking up a male prostitute at Rome's Termini Railway Station.

He was beaten around the head, kicked in the groin and run over by his own Alfa Romeo sports car.

The prostitute, 17-year-old Pino Pelosi, confessed to the murder hours after the body was found. He has always maintained he acted alone in a moment of rage after Pasolini, 53 when he died, made violent sexual advances.

But Marco Tullio Giordana's film Pasolini, An Italian Crime shows there was substantial forensic evidence to suggest that Pelosi had at least one accomplice, if not more. That was also the conclusion of the first trial.

Pelosi was sentenced to nine years in prison. He is now back in jail for other offences.

"In the end I am completely convinced of the conclusions of the judges in the first trial who found Pelosi guilty of murder in complicity with unknown accomplices," Giordana said before the movie's premiere at the Venice Film Festival.

Subsequent trials in the appeals courts did not mention the accomplices, and there were no further investigations.

Giordana is reluctant to use the word "coospiracy" but the *film is full of hints* that someone in power blocked the investigations and that there were important people who did not want to see the truth uncovered.

"At the time the magistracy was a united block under the watch of the political powers and the institutions, and so it was hostile to Pasolini," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Now the magistrates have changed a lot, so if someone sees new elements in the film, technically they can open a new investigation," he said.

The Pasolini family's lawyer Nino Marazzita, in Venice for the film's showing, told reporters he had made an official request for the case to be re-opened.

Pasolini was an outspoken critic of Italy's political establishment in the 1970s when corruption was rife and there were rumours of state involvement in a wave of extremist violence attributed to fascists, anarchists and Communists.

In an article published a few months before his death and quoted in the film, Pasolini said he knew who was responsible for a series of bombings — now dubbed "state massacres" by newspapers — that killed dozens in the early 1970s.

"I know all these names and I know all the crimes of which they are guilty. I know, but I don't have the proof," *Pasolini wrote, saying* some of the leading politicians of the day should be put on trial.

The Pasolini murder became Italy's version of America's John F. Kennedy controversy, with the country divided into two camps — the conspiracy theorists and those who believed Pelosi's claim that he had acted alone.

"What struck me most talking to people about Pasolini was that almost everyone remembers the death of Pasolini like almost all Americans remember the moment Kennedy died," Giordana said.

"Pasolini had become a familiar figure for the Italians, a character who was the incarnation of hostility and aggression, but also of love and charm and curiosity."

Born in 1922 in Bologna, Pasolini published his first poetry at the age of 19, and entered cinema as a screenwriter in 1954. Two years later he worked with Federico Fellini on The Nights Of Cabiria, and in 1961 made his first movie, Accattone.

"Every time a film of his came out there was discussion, argument, investigations and censorship," Giordana said.

In 1962, Pasolini was arrested on charges of insulting the Roman Catholic Church in the La Ricotta episode of the film Rogopag. Many of his films were slammed for excessive sex and violence.

Both his Canterbury Tales and Salo — The 120 Days Of Sodom were declared obscene by the courts and their release in Italy was delayed.

The atmosphere of seedy back-street violence that surrounded Pasolini's death bore an uncanny resemblance to much of his work, including Accattone, the film based on his own novel "una vita violenta" (A Violent Life).

The movie is a grim depiction of the sordid life of a pimp in a squalid working-class section of Rome where Pasolini had lived in the 1940s.

"In the end he was the victim of his own characters — a perfect tragedy foreseen in its own aspects — without knowing that one day it would end up overcoming him," fellow Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni said after the murder.

Giordana's film mixes modern reconstruction with historical footage from the aftermath of the murder, including pictures of Pasolini's funeral with an address by one of Italy's leading modern writers, the late Alberto Moravia.

"Above all we have lost a poet. And of poets there are not many born — three or four in a century," said Moravia.

"At the start I had thought to make a film of Pasolini's life, a biography starting from his childhood," Giordana said.

"But then I was inspired by the words of Pasolini himself, who said that a man's death makes a sort of collage of his life and gives the sense of his life."

Hollywood gays — new film heralds new depiction, but studio output slim

By John horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Are moviegoers ready for drag queens?

Audiences embraced Academy Award-winner Tom Hanks as a gay man dying from AIDS in 1993's Philadelphia, but a new comedy featuring cross-dressing men may be a tougher sell.

To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything Julie Newmar could prove a watershed in Hollywood's spotty history of depicting gays in movies. Although many recent independent films (Jeffrey, Priest) feature non-exploitative gay and lesbian storylines, only two recent major studio films — Philadelphia and Wong Foo — explore similar subject matter without falling into ugly stereotypes.

The many other studio films featuring gay characters mirror the country's prejudices. Most gay movie characters are either swishing buffoons providing comic "relief" (Beverley Hills Cop) or sexually deviant villains (The Silence Of The Lambs, Basic Instinct). In Braveheart, one gay character is summarily pushed to his death.

Unlike the serious, politically minded Philadelphia, Wong Foo is a wildly gaudy fable about three drag queens stranded in middle America. The $30 million Universal Pictures release stars Ghost heartthrob Patrick Swayze, Passenger 57 action hero Wesley Snipes and New York stage actor John Leguizamo. (The movie's title comes from the signature on a Newmar publicity photograph the three take with them on the road).

The movie may seem reminiscent of Milton Berle's old TV drag act, and viewers could assume it's just show business folly — famous male actors goofing around in dresses, hats and heels. Yet the three characters in Wong Foo are openly gay: They wear women's clothes not as a gag, but because they see themselves as women.

"Just as (action movie producer) Joel Silver has an explosion every five pages, I would have the characters remind the audience every five pages that they are gay," says Wong Foo's screenwriter, Douglas Carter Beanie. Both he and the film's executive producer are gay.

The film's opening shot in a crosscut montage of Swayze and Snipes putting on makeup, padded bras and pumps. For the next 100 minutes the three men undergo an array of wild costume changes and comically ponder their place in society. It's the kind of movie where Snipes can explain the different between a transvestite and a drag queen by saying that "when a gay man has way too much fashion sense for one gender, he is a drag queen."

Despite the all-star cast (many others, including Robin Williams, auditioned, and Williams plays a cameo), Wong Foo was not an easy movie to make. "Major studios passed on it and said, 'this is not a feature — this is not a studio picture. It's got homos'" Beane says.

Hollywood's executive offices house a fair number of gay executives, but they and their straight colleagues dread this kind of subject matter, fearful it won't appeal to mainstream ticket buyers.

A brief lesbian scene in 1990's Welcome Home, Roxy Carmichael was trimmed severely for that reason. A few members of preview audiences lodged anti-gay complaints about a minor gay character in Angus. The peripheral character was subsequently cut from the Sept. 15 movie because he detracted from the film's storyline, not due to his sexuality, New Line Cinema says.

The elements in 1991's Fried Green Tomatoes and 1994's Interview With The Vampire were toned down when they moved from book to screen.

Planned movie versions of the gay-themed plays Angels In America and Love Valour Compassion have been delayed, too, although there is no indication the postponements involve subject matter.

"Still, we've come a long way from cruising," a 1980 film demoising gays, says William Waybourn, managing director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"Suddenly, gays and lesbians are appearing all over the landscape — especially in TV. It's refreshing to see gays and lesbians portrayed so honestly now. If these films (such as Wong Foo) start making money, there will be even more of them," Waybourn says.

Waybourn hopes audiences soon will be able to identify and name gay romantic leads the way they now can name black and Asian romantic leads.

Throughout the '90s, independent producers and distributors have made and released many of the gay-themed movies the studios refused to touch. The Samuel Goldwyn Co. released the groundbreaking 1990 AIDS films Longtime Companion and last year's lesbian story Go Fish. Miramax handled 1995's Priest, about a gay Roman Catholic, and 1992's The Crying Game, about a transvestite.

Jeffrey, a comedy about gay love, was released this summer by Orion Classics, and 1994's drag queen hit The Advantures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert was handled by Gramercy. Fine Line this year released the teen lesbian film The Incredible True Adventure Of Two Girls In Love and Hugh Grant's turn as a gay stage director in An Awfully Big Adventure.

That studios largely stay away from positive depictions of gays and lesbians is hardly new. As recounted in the new documentary "the celluloid closet, about the only creativity Hollywood has shown when it comes to gays is finding new ways to demean them.

"The stereotypes were in place from the get-go," says Rob.

Broken-boned Jackie Chan is proud to be his own stuntman

By John Leicester
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Listening to Jackie Chan list the fractures and wounds he has picked up as Asia's favourite movie star is like touring a hospital emergency room.

Starting with his hands, Chan begins to count — about five broken fingers, both elbows, a shoulder ("the bone came out," he says non-chalantly), collar bone, hip, nose (three times), both ankles, assorted vertebrae and toes.

And topping them all, there's coinwide hole in his head from the time he jumped onto a tree but missed because he turned his head to ensure the camera caught his face.

Pain, however, is an occupational hazard for this muscular 5-foot-9 (1.75-metre) bundle of energy with a baby face and mop-top haircut.

With a potential audience of more than 2 billion Asians, Chan could claim to be the world's most visible movie star, and his appeal is enhanced by his insistence on doing his stunts himself, even if that makes him uninsurable.

"The more a movie is a success, the more the audience likes it, the more it makes me crazy," Chan said in an interview, explaining why he has spent 20 years fighting, plunging off buildings, jumping onto trains or hot-air balloons —anything to fill movie theatres.

Chan says he's used to injury. Besides, he makes up for it in wealth and legions of fans who stake out his office in northern Hong Kong hoping for a glimpse of Shing Long, or become a dragon, as Chan is known in Chinese.

Dressed in sweat pants and sleeveless, tight T-shirt, Chan is a constant flurry of activity. He jumps about his award-cluttered office and uses his arms and face to act out what he can't express in his rough-and-ready English.

Chan's assistants say he doesn't really relax, but instead amuses himself with sideline businesses — sportswear, shops and his latest project, bottled mineral water.

He also runs a charity, acts as a guide for other actors, and starred in an AIDS awareness campaign on television.

Until recently, Chan hid the fact that he's going steady and has a son because when he said he had a woman friend, "a girl committed suicide on the subway. Another girl, in front of my office, took poison."

Instead, he decided that whenever he was asked about romantic attachments, he would answer: "I have no sex life."

Born Chan Kong-Sang in 1954, Chan was 7 when his parents moved to Australia, leaving him at a Hong Kong theatre school which drilled him in "everything - acrobatics, kung fu, karate, judo... I liked fighting."

After stints as a child actor and stuntman, Chan was picked for New Fist Of Fury in 1976. More straight kung fu films followed, but they flopped against the overwhelming dominance of the late, great Bruce Lee. So Chan decided to break out of Lee's shadow and develop what are now his hallmarks —spectacular stunts, acrobatics and slapstick.

"Bruce Lee kicked high, I kicked low," Chan explains. "Bruce Lee punched with an 'aahh', after I punched, I made a funny face." He let himself be beaten up by a grandmother. He would hit an opponent and shake his fingers in mock agony.

The recipe was a hit. At 41, Chan still fills theatres at a time when Hong Kong filmgoers are turning to Hollywood because too many of the 150-plus movies Hong Kong yearly churns out are low-budget yawns.

His latest film, a car-racing adventure titled Thunderbolt, premiered in August and cost $25.6 million, a record for Hong Kong.

One audience Chan has failed to crack, however, is America, and after a stint in Hollywood which include the cannonball run in 1981, Chan gave up.

"I would rather be a king in Asia. I don't want to be a small fish, a small star in America," he says. "Americans won't accept Oriental people. They won't accept Oriental films."

Chan speaks admiringly, however, of Hollywood's special effects. He said the film trickery in Forrest Gump so depressed him he felt like quitting.

"We are very poor, what can I do?" he says. "The only choice I have is dangerous stunts."

To convince the audience of Chan's daredeviltry, his films show outtakes of botched stunts during the credits.

In Armour Of God II, a 1991 Indiana Jones-style hunt for Nazi gold, Chan wriggles along a chain suspended in the air. It looks easy. But an outtake show him falling off and hitting the ground like a mailbag, knocking himself out.

In the 1983 pirate adventure Project A, Chan falls from a clock tower through two cloth awnings, gets up off the ground and finishes the scene. The outtake shows him bouncing off an awning, hitting the dirt head first and being scooped up wobbly kneed and grimacing in pain.

"Do you think an American action star can do that?" he asks proudly.

Chan has used the same camera and stunt team for 10 years because they can match his speed and rhythm, and give him the confidence to do his stunts. Hollywood stunts are "computer, everything computer," he says disdainfully. "Everything we do is real... before I fight, I sit down with all my stunt team... boom, da-da, da-da-da-da-da."

Chan says he'll retire in three years to direct, but he dreams of working with George Lucas or Steven Spielberg, mixing special effects with his own real action. "I want to see what happens," he said. "If it works maybe I can still be an action star at 90."

Study: 20 years of Aspirin use cuts colon cancer risk in half

BOSTON (AP) — Taking an Aspirin every other day for 20 years can cut your risk of coloo cancer nearly in half, a study suggests.

Many studies in recent years have shown that people who regularly use Aspirin reduce their risk of colon and rectal cancer. But two important questions remained: How much should they take? And how loog should they take it?

A large new study of women nurses found that the risk falls when people take as little as four to six Aspirin a week. But the benefits do oot kick in until at least a decade of use.

Researchers who conducted the study said they believe the findings apply equally to meo.

Many doctors already routinely recommend that meo and womeo over 50 take an adult-strength Aspirin every other day — or a half-strength baby Aspirin every day, if that's easier to remember — to lower their risk of heart disease, another well-established benefit of Aspirin.

Animal studies suggest that some other over-the-counter pain relievers, such as Ibuprofen, might also prevent colon cancer. However, most of these medicines have not been widely available for decades, like Aspirin has been, so doctors cannot be sure of their long-term effects.

In the United States, where the study was conducted, colon and rectal cancer are the second leading cancer killer after lung cancer. It will kill an estimated 55,300 Americans this year.

The latest findings were based on the nurses' health study, which bas followed the health of 121,701 nurses since 1976. It was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

A team led by Dr. Edward Giovannucci of Harvard Medical School found that the benefits of Aspirin for the colon develop slowly. During the first decade of taking Aspirin regularly, users were just as likely as other people to get cancer.

There was a slight reduction for those who took it for 10 to 19 years, but it was not statistically meaningful.

However, after 20 years of Aspirin use, the advantages became clear: Users have a 44 per cent reduction in the chance of getting colon and rectal cancer.

Experts theorise the benefits are slow to materialise because Aspirin works only on the earliest stage of the disease. They believe it stops the growth of polyps in the colon that may, over time, become cancerous.

How it does this is unclear. Researchers suspect it may result from Aspirin's ability to block production of substances called prostaglandins, which may regulate cell growth, among other things.

Aspirin can cause stomach irritation and bleeding, and Dr. Giovannucci cautioned that people should oot begin using it to ward off heart disease and colon cancer without consulting their doctors.

In an editorial in the Journal, Dr. Aaron J. Marcus of New York Veterans Affairs Medical Ceotre recommended every-other-day Aspirin use by people who are at especially high risk of coloo and rectal cancer. These include those with inflammatory bowel disease, a family member with colon cancer or a history of cancer of the breast, uterus or ovaries.

However, Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society said it's still too early to urge that everyone take Aspirin to block cancer. He noted that several experiments are under way to see if Aspirin protects people from polyps, as researchers suspect. The results are still several years off.

"You need very solid experimental evidence before you can make broad public health recommendations," Dr. Thuo said.

Potential AIDS risk seen in medical, dental devices

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated press

NEW YORK — A chemical disinfectant used on some medical and dental devices can fail to kill the AIDS virus, posing a potential risk of infecting patieots, a study suggests.

Researchers found that in the laboratory, the disinfectant did not kill the AIDS virus in blood lodged in lubricants commonly used in dental equipmeot and in medical devices called endoscopes, which are inserted into the body to allow an interior view.

None of the devices has ever been shown to be the cause of HIV transmission from patient to patient, said researcher David Lewis, a microbiologist at the University of Georgia in Athens.

In the study, published by Mr. Lewis and another researcher in the September issue of the journal Nature Medicine, the AIDS virus survived after the contaminated lubricants were soaked for two hours in a powerful germ-killer called glutaraldehyde.

Mr. Lewis said the study emphasises the need to sterilise deotal equipment at extremely high temperatures, as recommended by the federal government and the American Dental Association. He also said the standards for decontaminating endoscopes should be raised.

Bot Dr. David Fleischer, past president of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, said current decootaminating procedures are "extremely effective."

And, he said, the experiment failed to mimic all the steps of the decontamination procedure used on gastrointestinal endoscopes.

More than 90 per cent of American deotists use heat sterilisation, said Chris Martin, a spokesman for the American Dental Association.

Mr. Lewis said it is possible that cootaminated dental equipment caused the case of Florida dentist Dr. David Acer, who infected six of his patients with the AIDS virus before he died. But Dr. Lewis said that possibility still remained unlikely, and that his study does not prove how the infections happened.

There has not been a single known case of AIDS resulting from the 10 million or so uses of gastrointestinal endoscopes each year, Dr. Fleischer said.

"It doesn't appear to be a clinical problem," Dr. Fleischer said.

The rate of passing along other germs is about once in every 1.5 million procedures, Dr. Fleischer said. "So overall, the record of doing this procedure has been safe with regard to infectious diseases," be said.

Airline attendants have double the risk of breast cancer — study

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Airline attendants are nearly twice as likely to get breast cancer as other womeo, according to Finnish researchers.

But the researchers said they doobted the unexpected finding is related to the increased radiation in the atmosphere at high altitudes.

Instead, they suggested there may be something peculiar in the lifestyle of flight atteodants, such as diet or chronic jetlag, which might affect hormones.

Flight attendants also tend to delay childbirth or not have childreo, two factors linked to increased risk of breast cancer. But that would not explain why the risk doubled, said Dr. Anssi Auvinen, one of the investigators at the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Noclear Safety in Helsinki.

"The point of our study was to assess whether there is an increase or not, and we cannot make infereoces regarding the causes," Dr. Auvinen said.

He said he thought it was "highly unlikely" that radiation exposure was responsible for the increase.

But Dr. Daniel Hoffman, chairman of preveotive medicine and public health at George Washingtoo School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., said it could not be ruled out.

"There is a wealth of information showing that radiatioo induces breast cancer, even at fairly low doses," Dr. Hoffman said. "This study is suggestive but needs further work," such as detailed informarion about individual radiation exposure.

The study is published in the latest edition the British Medical Journal.

Investigators studied medical records of 1,577 female and 187 male airline attendants who had worked for Finnish Airlines between 1967 and 1992.

They tallied the number of cancers and compared the totals with the number of cancers expected in the general population.

Researchers paid particular attention to those cancers linked to radiation exposure, such as leukemia, cancer of the blood.

With most types of cancer, only one or two cases were reported among airline attendants - too small to draw any conclusions.

However 20 female flight anendants developed breast cancer, compared to an expected number of fewer than 11, Dr. Auvinen said.

Airline attendants are exposed to twice as much radiation in a year compared to the general population, 4 milliseverts vs. 2.

Survivors of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, who were exposed to 280 milliseverts, had a 30 per cent higher rate of breast cancer than the general population.

Scientists deprive cancer cells of their immortality

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Scientists have discovered a method of depriving cancer cells of their immortality, which could lead to a treatment for the disease, but caution that human experimeots are a loog way off.

"We're making progress ... We're on track," said Calvin Harley, who heads a scientific group at Geron Corp. of Menlo Park, California, whose experiments were reported in the Journal Science.

The report said that malignant cells that had been growing for decades in a laboratory dish were dosed with lahoratory-made genes causing them to lose their "immortality" and die within weeks.

The scientists said their experiment provided "proof of principle" of a discovery made last year of how cancer cells escape a normal process believed to cause most cells in the hody to grow old and die.

Dr. Harley said the gene therapy was not likely to become viable for human tests in the near future, but that Geron and Memoral-Sloan Kettering Cancer Ceotre in New York had received a federal grant to jointly develop a drug that accomplishes the same goal of hlocking the anti-aging mechanism in cancer cells.

"We have candidates (drugs) that we are testing, hut they are oot ready for trial in human beings," Dr. Harley added.

The researchers also warned that they bave yet to determine whether hlocking the anti-aging mechanism could harm normal parts of the body, adding that there was evident that blood-forming cells also use the same mechanism.

Carol Greider of the Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory on Long Island, New York, said her group was studying the process in mice to learn how it functions so they can test a possible drug treatment for the animals.

Clue to sudden infant death found in brain stem

By Joanne Kenen
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. researchers have said they had discovered a clue deep in the brain stem of babies that might help unravel the tragic mystery of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

"We're announcing a clue — a major clue. Bnt it's not the cause," said Dr. Hannah Kinney, a pathologist at children's bospital in Boston and at Harvard Medical School, whose study appears in the journal Science.

The defect is not fully understood yet, and the research does not mean a cure or even a risk-screening test is at hand, Dr. Kinney said in a telephone interview.

Pediatricians now advise parents to place their babies to sleep on their backs instead of their stomachs after research showed this reduces the risk. But it does not eliminate it.

The disorder, known hy the acronym SIDS and sometimes called "crib death" or "cot death", kills about 7,000 infants annually in the United States and thousands more around the world, according to the SIDS alliance, a non-profit family support group based in Baltimore, Maryland, that helps fund research hy Dr. Kinney and others.

Dr. Kinney and her colleagues discovered a cell defect in one very small section of the brain stem. They theorise that this flaw prevents the infant from detecting dangerously high levels of carbon dioxide, or CO2.

Babies, particularly those sleeping on their stomachs, may hreathe in higher levels of carbon dioxide in stale air trapped under their hlankets.

Wheo a healthy' person hreathes in too much of the gas the reaction is to wake up and cough or clear the airway to eliminate the hazard. "It's a protective reflex," Dr. Kinney said.

But apparently some babies lack that internal carbon dioxide detector, and inhale lethal levels. "The baby doesn't respond to rising CO2 and doesn't arouse," Dr. Kinney said.

The flaw was fouod in autopsies in a statistically significant number of the babies who died of SIDS, and not seen in infant deaths attributed to other causes.

Dr. Kinney said this may be a factor, but not necessarily the sole cause of SIDS. Research has shown other risk factors include low hirthweight or exposure to cigarette smoke.

Dr. Kinney and her colleagues will continue to study the cellular defect, and its possible link to slow brain development. SIDS victims' brain stem chemistry, she noted, often looks like that of babies at hirth, not like that of babies who are a few months old.

No shortage of challenges for Pasteur researchers

By Marcel Michelson
Reuter

PARIS — It is a century since the death of Louis Pasteur but researchers at the institute he founded still haven't run short of challenges.

"We still don't know all the illnesses in the world," said Professor Maxime Schwartz, managing director of the Pasteur Institute, foonded in 1887.

"We doo't have vaccines against the illnesses we do know and there are new illnesses, and there will be other new illnesses, for which we will need vaccines," he said in an interview.

Louis Pasteur, born in 1822 in the eastern French town of Dole, was responsible for some major breakthroughs in medicine.

He discovered that bacteria can cause disease and his process of "Pasteurisation" — heating up liquids and cooling them down to kill microbes — is used to this day to make milk safe to drink.

Pasteur discovered in 1894 that he could vaccinate dogs against the deadly scourge of rabies by injecting them with bone marrow from a rabid dog.

On July 6, 1885, three people arrived uninvited at Pasteur's laboratory in Paris. Theodore Vore's dog had contracted rabies and hitten Vore and nine-year old Joseph Meister, who arrived at the laboratory with his mother.

Humans bitten hy a rabid animal risk dying in agonising convulsions if they are not treated.

Vore was seot home after a check-up but Meister was diagnosed as having just a few days to live. After a desperate appeal from the mother, Pasteur treated the boy.

Meister was given injections of bone marrow from a rabid rabbit and he survived to later become a porter at the institute.

Pasteur is best known for inventing the Pasteurisation process, which involves heating foods and liquids for a period to kill harmful bacteria.

The process, now used worldwide especially for dairy products, helped reduce the spread of diseases including tuberculosis, which can be carried in untreated milk.

It was also applied to wine and beer production after Pasteur discovered Pasteurisation could prevent abnormal fermentation.

Pasteur died on Sept. 28, 1895 in Villeneuve-L'Etang and is huried in the grounds of the institute.

To mark the centenary of his death, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisatioo declared 1995 the Year of Pasteur.

The Pasteur Institute today employs about 1,200 researchers who specialise in viruses and the development of vaccines.

From an annual budget of less than one billion Freoch francs ($200 million), it also runs a small hospital dedicated mainly to AIDS patients, carries out educatinnal programmes and operates a special unit to test producnoo equipment for the pharmaceutical industry.

Prof. Schwartz said one third of the institute's funds come from government grants, less than a third from gifts and about 40 per cent from its own commercial activities.

Those include joint ventures with two of France's biggest drug groups, the Merieux Institute of Rhone-Poulenc SA and the Sanofi Unit of Elf Aquitaine SA, to produce and market vaccines.

The Pasteur Institute last year won a long legal battle and its professor Luc Montagnier received recognition as the inventor of the diagnostic test for the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The end of the dispute between Prof. Montagnier and U.S. scientist Robert Gallo led to a review of the way royalties from the tests are split. The Pasteur Institute now gets 50 per cent of the royalties, instead of 37.5 per cent, to spend on AIDS research.

The AIDS test is the most recent in a long line of successes for the institute. Pasteur researchers have received no fewer than eight Nobel Prizes for Medicine.

The next success could be in the treatment of stomach ulcers. Pasteur researchers discovered that the bacterium helicobacter pylori plays an important role in causing ulcers.

But scientists have oot yet found vaccines against two widespread killers — malaria and tuberculosis. Some 200 million people suffer from malaria and there are two million deaths each year. Tuberculosis kills three million people per year.

"There is a vaccine against tuberculosis but it only works well with babies. We still have to find a better vaccine and we are working at it here in the institute," said Prof. Schwartz.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

TAKE THAT!
By Norma Steinberg

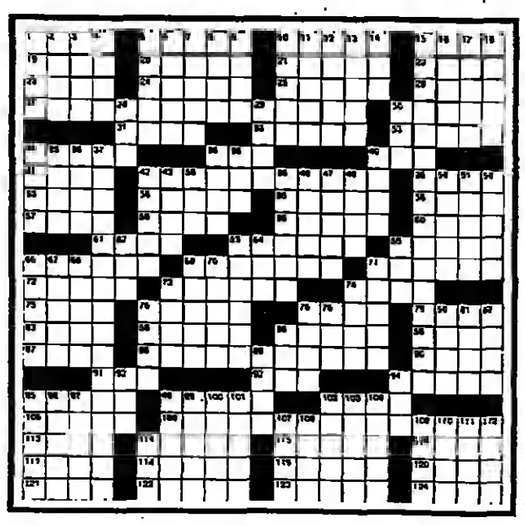
ACROSS
1 Eh?
5 En —
10 Disgusting
15 Annie Oakley
19 Rolling in dough
20 Pulitzer's creator
21 Hawaiian perch
22 Biblical proposition
23 — brave (musical phrase)
24 Pick-me-up
25 Pizzeria appliances
26 Actress Patricia
27 Cop's job, at times
30 — up (gather with effort)
31 Individuals
32 Perry's secretary
33 Tabor
34 Light purple
38 Peruke
40 Grassland
41 Speed skater Heiden
42 Attuneize
49 Sqts, e g
53 Pew — (church kneeling bench)
54 Tranquility
55 Low-lying region in Europe
56 Pub measle
57 Aide, jobbr
58 Standing
59 "— Psyche" (Keats)
60 Name in a Beatles song
61 Gymnast's name
63 Growers
65 Fashion match
66 "Peck's — " (old film)
68 Toasted
71 Up-to-date
72 So long, Pablo
73 Tired
74 Whig's opponent
75 Certain European
76 Deceptive move
77 Homer's kid
79 Send
83 TV part
84 Jessica or Hope
85 U S playwright
86 Jekyll's alter ego
87 Formerly, once
88 Patterned footwear
90 Unwrap
91 Fodder
93 Facial spasm
94 Bird sound
95 Yearns
98 Hi, n Hi
102 Equestrian's "step"
105 Chick sound
106 Late night, or something
113 Gate receipts
114 Nasty feds
115 "O, give me —"
116 Computer rism
117 Exploits
118 Assail
119 Kind of race
120 Compel to go
121 Jaunty
122 Surreptitious
123 Walls
124 Woodwind

DOWN
1 Sicle
2 Has mortgage
3 Rights advocates jobr
4 Word in a comparison
5 Obtain entrance
6 By oneself
7 Time's age clues
8 — yourself
9 Draw with acid
10 Orb
11 "Bolero" composer
12 Ryan or Tatum
13 Barbara or Monica
14 Sibling, briefly
15 Puppetry performance
16 Lend — (helped)
17 Gaze intently
18 Repaired shoes
28 One of Snow White's friends
29 Verge
30 Vane dir
34 Clytemnestra's mother
35 Part of the eye
36 Commits perjury
37 Best of all
38 Gandhi part
39 Mamie's spouse
45 Apollo's mother
42 Atomizer
43 Jots or Nots
44 Spurted
45 Overthrew
46 Military chaplain
47 Upright
48 Certain exams, for short
50 Make trappers
51 Directive
52 Dutch painter
62 John — Passos
63 Talk show host, Williams
64 Have debts
65 In favor of
66 Moisten while cooking
67 Alfred or Felix
69 Calls
69 Person
70 Long-limbed
71 Specks
73 Regan's dad
74 Arduous journey
76 Excedrin
77 Coalition of a kind
78 Alphabet run
88 Extravagant advertising
81 — fixe
82 Confined
85 "— live and breathe!"
89 Run of life
92 Snake
94 Sailor
95 Misbehave
96 Put to flight
97 Trail walker
98 See eye to eye
99 Rental contract
100 Aquatic mammal
101 Precipitous
102 Unbroken
103 Macho guy
104 Heeds
107 Spree
108 Biblical pronoun
109 Nymph who loved Narcissus
110 "Perjuod" captain
111 One thousand pref
112 Grill —
114 Unit of volume abbr

Diagramless, 17 x 17
By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1 Wild hog
5 Small unit of matter
9 Intimately
10 Tardy
11 Outdoing
13 Mom anery
14 Onole and cardinal
15 Prouseiance
17 Exhorts
18 Filmmaker Villoro Do —
19 Hurl
20 Miserable person
23 Biblical verb ending
24 Food fish
25 Growing taller quickly
29 Front part of a ship
32 Leather thong for sharpening razors
33 Self
34 Anas
36 Use a needle
37 Defeats
40 Asian land
41 Sino —
42 Bristle-like structure
45 Snakes
46 "When I was —"
47 Pains
48 One with an outside chance
52 Food fish
53 Spanish friend
54 Young hare
56 Hindu princess
57 Day of moves
58 Leg joint
59 Coaster

DOWN
1 Necklace items
2 Food scraps
3 "Dp — say, no!"
4 Nevada gambling town
5 Hawaiian greeting
6 Source of starch
7 Premanger or Klemperer
8 Butcher's offering
9 Israeli statesman
11 VIPs
12 Violent rush of wind
13 Author Sholem
14 Sours
16 Spasmodic muscular contraction
17 Indians
20 Thrash
21 Tried for office
22 Rams
24 Put away
26 Mine find
27 Exclamation of disgust
28 Swimming places
29 Honcho
30 Ancient
31 Certain gall stroke
34 Greek portico
35 Pilfered
37 Cereal grain
39 Loch — monster
42 Plus
43 Cheer
44 Hero
45 Measures of land
46 Playing marble
47 Harsh-smelling
48 Songbird
49 Arabian sultanate
50 Baseball team
51 Koppel and Turner
52 Wuhered
55 Boolc abbr



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Attache arrives aboard airbus, attempts amending arrangeoeots about approaching aviotion accord.
2. Happy husband proudly takes out the garbage. He thinks of himself as a "G-man."
3. How muoy amazing Hollywood extravaganzas have proved to exceed all expectations?
4. Our most difficult disposal problem will be vast piles of radioactive waste.

CRYPTOGRAMS

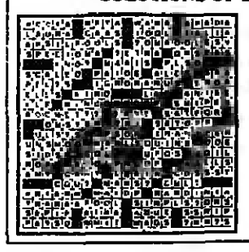
1. WAET JPMJYQ CLYOJY DIKJE QI XIBIII RB QVJ XRQT LBB YJXJRKJE MLTOJBQE CYID QVJ ZIKJYBDJBQ CIY BIQ ZYISKBZ DAEVYIIDE RB VRE SBBHIS WIP..
—By Earl Ireland

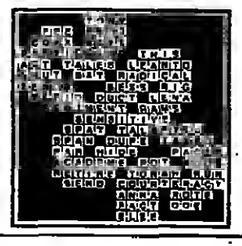
2. ZNYOUPAZ NPL OWIZPAZ OYZZYZM, ZITOMESTEEMS BTYSEL OPZ UME YAK DMZPAL Y IMAZENV UTWSAMV ET ZYOTA. ZPOSYIEYS YAK OWIZYSPY. —By Duane H. McGogy

3. RODZOBP MKTE KE U CQZZIOD MLAK: EA URRAKEPCOEP EOBOMMUDS; K'II LOUD SAQ BACKET. —By Barbara A. Rogg

4. SNKUWSI MUNKN WKN MYY AWFL EFROBOT NASTYLNNI OF YEK RDBOT INKEDRN!
—By Ed Huddleson

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





ARAB BANK

Dear Shareholders and Clients of Arab Bank

As we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Arab Bank, we look with pride at the achievements of the institution. Arab Bank stands strong with a total balance sheet exceeding US$ 21 billion and total equity of more than US$ 1.2 billion. The Bank has expanded beyond regional boundaries and now operates in the major financial centres in the world. The people of Arab Bank have proven themselves capable of competing successfully in many environments. This by itself highlights the mission of the Bank which is based on the belief in the abilities of the Arab nation. Arab Bank has followed an operational policy distinguished by a dedication to serving customers. The management of Arab Bank has also safeguarded the rights of shareholders and has worked diligently to make the Bank grow and prosper. The numbers in this Statement of Condition speak for themselves. The data underlines the strengths of Arab Bank's financial position and reflects the Bank's ability to operate efficiently and adapt effectively to the changing factors influencing the banking industry. Now as we are about to enter the 21st century, I would like to extend our continued support to our shareholders and clients. As we have done in the past, we will work to serve you to the best of our abilities.

Abdulmajeed A.H. Shoman / Chairman, Board of Directors

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1995 and 1994

Assets	1995 JOD ('000)	1994 JOD ('000)
Cash and due from banks	3,666,962	3,513,264
Securities and investments	1,149,939	975,258
Loans and advances	3,375,875	2,882,059
Customers' liability on acceptances	142,754	104,567
Premises and equipment	50,641	48,629
Accrued interest receivable	81,032	45,893
Other assets	57,003	44,341
Total Assets	**8,524,206**	**7,614,011**
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	3,056,341	2,775,189
Total	**11,580,547**	**10,389,200**

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	1995 JOD ('000)	1994 JOD ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	7,781,667	6,996,234
Acceptances	142,754	104,567
Accrued interest payable	65,111	40,402
Other liabilities	47,674	40,808
Capital	44,000	44,000
Statutory reserve	44,000	44,000
Voluntary reserve	94,000	75,000
General reserve	305,000	269,000
Total Liabilities and Shareholders'Equity	**8,524,206**	**7,614,011**
Guarantees and letters of credit	3,056,341	2,775,189
Total	**11,580,547**	**10,389,200**

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1995 and 30 June 1994 was included in " Other liabilities "

ARAB BANK

Main branches in the Arab countries

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box.	Telephone	Facsimile
Shmeisani, Amman	Jordan (71)	950546	607231	670564
King Faisal St. Amman		68	638161	637082
Ramallah	West Bank (5)	1487	9954822	9954824
Gaza	Gaza Strip (1)	91	866288	820704
Manama O.B.U.	Bahrain (1)	813	212255	231640
Manama	Bahrain (3)	395	255988	210443
Cairo	Egypt (5)	2006	5746218	5746165
Riad Solh St., Beirut	Lebanon (11)	11-1015	860474	860651
Tripoli		379	430111	433033
Saida		199	724501	721482
Doha	Qatar (2)	172	437979	410774
Abu Dhabi	U.A.E. (8)	875	334111	336433
Dubai		11364	228845	285974
Sana'a	Yemen (4)	475	276584	276583

Main branches in Europe, Asia and U.S.A.

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Nicosia	Cyprus (5)	5650	457111	367741
Paris	France (2)	319	45616000	42890978
Athens	Greece (1)	30357	3255401	3255519
Rome	Italy (1)	745	69940479	6795601
Madrid	Spain (2)		3084290	3086482
London	U.K. (3)	138	3158500	6007620
Singapore	Singapore (1)		5330055	5322150
Seoul	S. Korea (1)	1331	7570024	7570124
New York	U.S.A. (2)	5377	7159700	5934632

Representative office Beijing (Peking) China Tel. 5002255 (ext.3510) Fax 5003275

Sister, Subsidiary and associated companies

	Country	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	Zurich	5281	2657111	2657330
	Geneva	1096	7151211	7322460
Arab Bank Australia Ltd.	Sydney	N-645	2324133	2215428
Arab Bank (Austria) AG	Vienna	100	5134240	51342409
Arab Bank AG	Frankfurt	100127	242590	235471
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A.	Geneva	1506	7326003	7387229
Arab Tunisian Bank	Tunis	520	350147	349278
Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.	Ruwi	2010	706265	797736
Arab Bank Maroc	Casablanca	13810	223152	200233
Arab National Bank	Riyadh	56921	4029000	4027747

Sister, Subsidiary & Associated Companies

Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. - Zurich, Geneva	100%
Arab Bank Australia Ltd. - Sydney	100%
Arab Bank (Austria) AG - Vienna	100%
Arab Bank AG - Frankfurt / Germany	100%
Finance , Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A. - Geneva	100%
Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64%
Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50%
Oman Arab Bank - Oman	49%
Arab National Bank - Saudi Arabia	40%

ARAB BANK, GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SHMEISANI, AMMAN, P.O.BOX 950544-5.
TELEPHONE : 607115, 607231, TELEX : 23091 ARABNK JO, FAX : (962) (6) 606793

Jordan plans ambitious $1 billion telecoms scheme

By Suleiman Al Khalidi

Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan plans an ambitious $1.067 billion investment plan to modernise its telecommunications sector with a large domestic and foreign private sector financing role.

"The telecommunications sector needs a number of investment projects during the period from 1994-2008, with an estimated value of $1.067 billion," Jamal Sarayrah, minister of telecommunications told Reuters.

The financing of an total 21 projects would be from both domestic private funds and foreign investment, aided by a target to privatise state-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) within a two to three year period, Mr. Sarayrah added.

The projects are to replace the infrastructure of the existing telecommunications network (basic service) and modernise and develop it along with regional projects to link Jordan's network with its neighbours, including the Amman-Tel Aviv and Amman-Baghdad optical fiber cable networks.

Mr. Sarayrah said part of the $1.067 projects were to be submitted to foreign investors in a regional economic summit in Amman due to be held end of October.

Other projects would be open to the private sector and also undertaken once the TCC is transformed into a commercially-run wholly-owned state company, expected by the end of the year.

He said a telecommunications law to be passed by Parliament Thursday will give the Cabinet powers to set the broad policy and transfer TCC into a commercially-run operator company.

TCC, which had a record 160.8 million dinars ($225 million) operational and non-operational revenue in 1994, with profits of 107.4 million dinars, would be given two to three years to get on track before allowing full-scale competition.

The new telecoms law sets up a regulatory body in charge of overseeing the telecommunications sector, with powers to set bylaws on pricing and licensing of private companies operating in the sector.

Mr. Sarayrah said U.K. based consultants Price Waterhouse were currently providing advice to Jordan on its plans to totally restructure the telecommunications sector by 1996.

Mr. Sarayrah said Jordan will allow now licensing of private operators in all sectors including data networking, public telephones, packets switching networks and VSAT, except the general telecommunications network.

It's first ever cellular phone system by a private company will be operational this month with around 10,000 subscribers.

Mr. Sarayrah said he was "certain that as of the first of January 1997, Jordan would issue the first license to private sector operators for the general telecommunications networks."

He said a $50 million floating rate Eurobond issue launched this week would be used to part fund a $223 million project to add an extra 300,000 telephone lines by 1997 through setting up 21 new main exchanges and digital systems and cables.

Industry officials say the telecoms business in Jordan offers huge potential growth in a country with 323,000 telephone numbers in a population of over four million.

Libya's expulsions of workers could economically backfire, diplomats say

NICOSIA (AFP) — Libya's expulsion of thousands of foreign workers is a political move that could economically backfire, diplomats in Tripoli said Wednesday.

The thousands of foreigners, notably Egyptians, Sudanese, and Palestinians who have been expelled over the last few days were part of a foreign workforce that has become vital to sustaining Libya's economy, they said.

"The decision to expel 30,000 Palestinians, almost all of them doctors, engineer's or qualified technicians, is political," a European diplomat, who preferred not to be identified, said.

"But to expel all of the 1.5 million foreign workers who drive the economy is not realistic," the diplomat, contracted by AFP in Nicosia, added.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Sept. 1 called on Arab nations to expel all Palestinians residing within their borders to point up the failure of the Israeli-PLO peace accords.

The Libyan authorities have also targetted illegal Arab and African workers. Some 7,000 Egyptians have fled Libya over the past few days and African nationals, mainly Sudanese, have been herded into camps to await deportation, Egyptian travellers have said.

Tripoli stepped up the expulsions of foreign workers after troubles erupted in the eastern city of Benghazi last week in which 20 Islamic militants and 10 police were reported to have died. Libya has denied any unrest took place.

"If you want to expel the heretics, infiltrators and workers here illegally, you have to replace them" in the jobs they leave, Colonel Qadhafi told the Libyan people earlier this month.

Security concerns have overridden the economic problems caused by the expulsion of foreign workers, a diplomat said.

"You can't forget that Libya has justified the expulsions of thousands of Egyptians and Sudanese by charging that they were hiding Islamic agitators," the diplomat added.

Colonel Qadhafi claims that 2.5 million foreigners work in Libya, including 1.25 million Egyptians, 500,000 Chadians, 60,000 Algerians, with an equal number of Tunisians and Sudanese, and 125,000 others from Africa.

But Western diplomats in Libya estimate the number is more likely 1.5 million foreign workers. The Egyptians number less than 900,000 and work essentially in agriculture and as unskilled labour.

The Chadians and Sudanese — numbering respectively 450,000 and 150,000 — are also heavily present in agriculture and harvesting, they said. The Moroccans work mainly in restaurants and hotels.

According to the diplomatic sources, 8,000 foreigners are employed in these two areas, while 26,000 others work as chauffers, 70,000 are in construction, 300,000 in industry and 600,000 in agriculture.

Another diplomat in Tripoli, said that the foreign workers "will remain indispensable as long as the Libyans are not required to replace them," in the lower-paying jobs.

For now the average Libyan salary of 150 to 350 dinars a month is enough because everything is subsidised, they don't pay rent, schooling or medical care. The dinar is valued at 3.2 to the U.S. dollar at the official rate, but on the black market the rate is almost reverse with $1 worth 3.4 dinars.

Colonel Qadhafi claims Libya is doing the foreign workers a favour by providing them better economic conditions than they would find at home.

The Libyan leader said they represent an "economic burden" to a country that has been under United Nations economic sanctions since 1992 for its alleged support of terrorism.

But Colonel Qadhafi told his people that "you cannot prevent starving neighbours or those in difficulty from coming to Libya, where they see you eating until your full."

Top Japan planner vows to quit if economy worsens

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top economic planner warned Wednesay that the nation's record high unemployment rate could rise further and promised to quit if the economic situation worsened.

Japan's real jobless rate could be as high as nearly six per cent if all surplus workers on company payrolls were counted, Economic Planning Agency Minister Isamu Miyazaki said.

"If you look at unemployment as a whole, including those (surplus workers) still on payrolls, unemployment is probably above five per cent and perhaps close to six per cent," Mr. Miyazaki told a news conference. "This situation is not likely to be resolved anytime soon."

Mr. Miyazaki said Japan's jobless rate would likely stay at its current record high of 3.2 per cent for the next four to five months and might rise higher. "To resolve the problem we need to get economic recovery back on track," he said.

Mr. Miyazaki, a former bureaucrat who came to his cabinet post last month after a stint in the private sector, said he would step down if Japan's economy deteriorated.

"I hope it will show appropriate growth in the latter half of next year," he said. "I would immediately resign if the economy worsens or if government econcomic steps do not work well," it said.

He admitted that the economy, still stagnant after almost four years of near-zero growth, faced the danger of deflation, but added that government steps to boost the economy would prevent full-scale deflation.

"We do admit the danger of deflation exists. That is why we believe immediate counter-measures must be taken and we are confident that, as a result, we will be able to prevent full-scale deflation," he said. Japan is set to unveil its latest set of stimulative fiscal steps around Sept. 20.

Mr. Miyazaki said the package would have three major elements: "Expanding domestic demand, removing obstacles to growth such as financial institutions' bad debt problems, and deregulation.

"All three pillars are very important but for the moment the emphasis is on the first pillar — domestic demand stimulation," he said.

Mr. Miyazaki said any economic stimulus package should include an outline of how much the nation's huge current account surplus would decline as a percentage of gross domestic product, but he stopped short of saying whether such a target, previously rejected by the ministry of finance, would be in next week's package.

He said the package could include purchases of land by public bodies to activate transactions in Japan's property market, whose illiquidity is one factor impeding recovery.

Dollar leaps to new highs

TOKYO (R) — The dollar rocketed to its highest level in almost 15 months Wednesday, zooming up through the 102 yen barrier in Tokyo trade with dealers saying it still had further to climb.

The greenback maintained the momentum that had propelled it over the key 100-yen hurdle on Tuesday, shooting as high as 102.10 yen in early afternoon trade, its highest level since June 1994.

Although it had fallen back slightly to 101.95 yen by 0800 GMT on profit-taking, this was still well above its previous high for this year of 101.47 yen, set in January before the dollar slipped into a deep decline.

Tokyo dealers said the dollar would continue to rise overall, but that its pace was likely to slacken, with most seeing a possible turning point on Sept. 20, when the Japanese government is to issue an economy-boosting package.

"A lot will depend on the package, which could prompt some selling. But overall I see the dollar fairly strong over the mid term," said Akira Kurihara, chief spot dealer at the Norinchukin Bank.

Dealers said the dollar's rally was fuelled by market perceptions that Japanese monetary autborities are intent on taming the stubborn strength of the yen, which has hurt exporters and cast a pall over the economy this year.

"People are comfortable buying dollars right now since the Japanese monetary authorities' stance (to push the dollar up) is clear," said Toyomitsu Sakala, head of treasury sales at National Westminster Bank to Tokyo.

The Bank of Japan was detected buying dollars, a step it uses to maintain the U.S. currency's upward momentum, at around 101.70-80 yen in afternoon trade.

The central bank helped trigger the dollar's advance into 100-yen-plus territory last week when it slashed the nation's key interest rate and intervened aggressively in the foreign exchange market to buy dollars.

"The government deregulatory policies and other support initiated the dollar's rise, and then investors joined in," said Yasuhiko Matsunaga, senior manager at the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), who said he saw the dollar moving in a 100 to 105 yen range until the end of September.

"The impression is that the monetary authorities may still be looking higher, particularly now that capital has started flowing abroad," he added.

A deregulatory package announced by the Japanese government on Aug. 2 has encouraged Japanese investment overseas.

A senior Bank of Japan official told Reuters that the dollar's rise on Wednesday morning reflected the recent flow of capital out of Japan.

The package due out next week will have three major elements — expanding domestic demand, removing obstacles to growth such as the bad debt problems at financial institutions, and deregulation, Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Minister Isamu Miyazaki said.

THE BETTER HALF®

By Glasbergen

"Every September my mother buys me a new box of crayons, new sneakers and a lunchbox. Old habits die hard!"

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BICCU

ZUFYZ

TINTEK

RASITE

THE "SCIENTIFIC" NAME FOR A CHAMPAGNE MAKER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

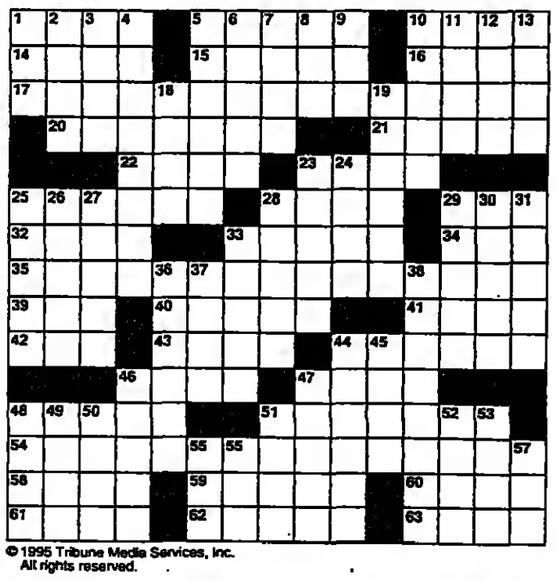
Answer here: A "( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MADAM PIVOT UNEASY PURIFY

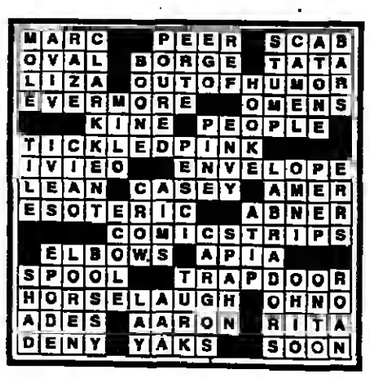
Answer: The cowboy's horse impulsively reacted to this — THE "SPUR" OF THE MOMENT

THE Daily Crossword by Charles R. Woodard



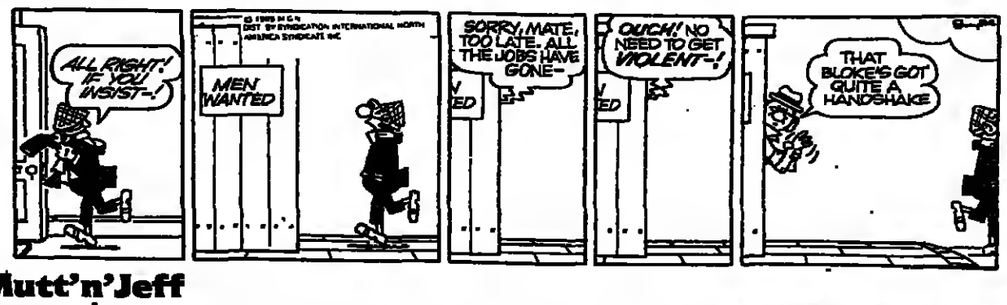
ACROSS
1 Cheesa variety
5 Snoopy's Red —
10 Mr. Dillon
14 Garment for Caasar
15 Abscond
16 Melville work
17 12
20 Most daring
21 Naps
22 MIT word: abbr.
23 Dos - —
25 Stunned
28 Lath
29 Faucet
32 Tilt
33 Lose one's — (suffer great losses)
34 Pub order
35 3
39 DDE
40 Buenos —
41 Singing Diamond
42 — de guerre
43 Some parties
44 G.I. meals
46 Shapeless mass
47 Wine type
48 Celebrations
51 Fill
54 0
58 Attorney General Janet
59 Whirling
60 Sicilian volcano
61 North Sea feeder
62 Legal papers
63 Medicine measure

DOWN
1 Catchall abbr.
2 Open — policy
3 Water: Sp.
4 Boxer Rocky
5 Order
6 "I have become — name" (Rukeyser)
7 Put to flight
8 Saturn's wife
9 Wedding announcement word
10 Customs
11 Biblical prophet
12 Racetrack figure
13 A-one
18 Cans
19 Cave
23 AKA
24 Jeanne —
25 Actor Dalon
26 Lizard
27 Seraglio
28 Footwear
29 Uses the VCR
30 TV's "Kate & —"
31 Pares
33 Handbag feature
36 African tribe
37 Per — (daily)
38 Not spoken
44 Inns
45 Moran of "Happy Days"
46 Toil
47 Did road work
46 Lake Michigan port
49 War god
50 Country road
51 Snicker follower
52 Yugoslav leader
53 Ages and ages
55 Ill-bred guy
56 Anger
57 Burns' negative

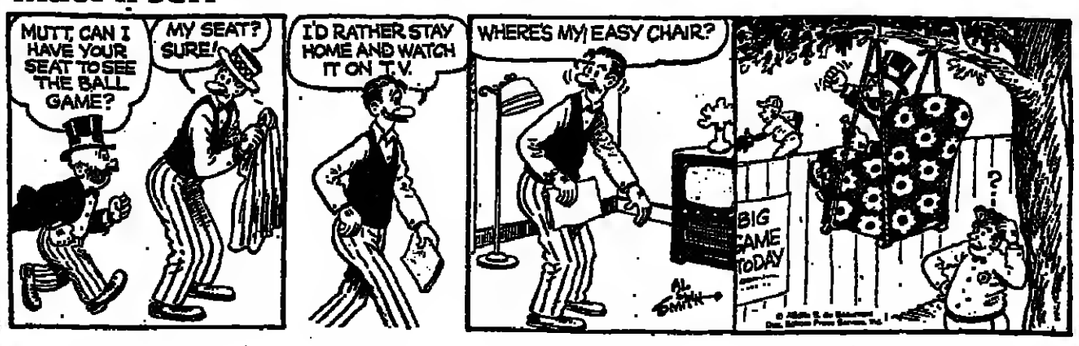


Peanuts

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Begin today properly by getting into business and other important matters ahead of you, but don't make any radical changes.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Communication of all kinds about which you have procrastinated can today be handled with cheerful readiness.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Analyse your position well and you will know how to make greater progress later today. Go to an expert for financial advice.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after your personal wishes and gain them with relative ease today. Learn to economise more.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are able to gain fascinating new information this morning, but later today you may feel annoyed because of some condition.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be more willing to listen to suggestions of a partner and use them for good results. Then go after new knowledge you need.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find that civic and business affairs go along smoothly for you this morning, but look for some monetary trouble later today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A different approach at some personal matter can clear it up to your satisfaction today. Get credit affairs improved.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Interest yourself in finding better ways to please your partners this morning and later today don't get taken in by a new contact.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An associate may be overly anxious today, so get your heads together and work out a fine deal which will be successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Work at a measured pace and you get far better results than if you try to rush. Render a personal favour to a fellow associate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Personal pleasures can be enjoyed during this morning, and then get busy and improve your surroundings.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get right at those interesting outside affairs today and complete them before you have some problem to solve.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can easily become more successful with the assistance of one who dwells with you, so follow advice given to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Financial affairs are very important to you so study periodicals which can help you to become more efficient in your tasks.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Find better ways of getting your plans working more efficient and easily, and don't let stumbling blocks throw you for a loop. Make appointments for tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are very charming today and can get just about anything you wish, if you smile more. Later conditions are not favourable.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go after more of the personal things you want out of life and gain them, then be of assistance to a good friend.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This morning is the best time to invite friends for a soiree, since later today both you and they will have much to do.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't deviate in handling worldly affairs. Get routine tasks completed precisely. The morning is the best time to ask for a favour.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Listen to the suggestions of one whose experience has been quite different to yours, and then you can handle some proposition from a different angle.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study practical issues and make them work so that you benefit more. Handle details well and then take time for shopping.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more willing to go along with ideas of a bigwig today and put your aside for the time being and you can complete an urgent project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Find better ways to add beauty and comfort to your surroundings this morning, then get at others career activities you have to do.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Export credit guarantee programme takes off

☆☆ THE JORDAN Loan Guarantee Corporation (JLGC) was given an additional function after the general assembly approved expanding the role of the corporation into the export credit guarantee area. The general assembly also approved raising the capital of the JLGC from JD 7 million to JD 10 million. The Central Bank, which has a JD 3 million stake in the corporation, will immediately provide JD 1 million of the capital increase to bring its total equity to JD 4 million. Jamal Salah, JLGC's director-general, revealed that the Central Bank funds were to fact grants from the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID), which, financially and technically, has backed the corporation and the launching of the export credit guarantee programme. The new scheme will be implemented in two stages, Dr. Salah said, the first of which to begin in early 1996. It would provide guarantees to small exporters to obtain about 75 per cent of working capital needs from any bank in Jordan including the Export Development Bank when it starts operations. These guarantees will provide security to lending banks in Jordan should exporters fail to repay the pre-shipment credit. The second stage, known as post-shipment credit, will be implemented in the future, Dr. Salah said without providing a specific date. JLGC was set up in 1994 by the Central Bank and 23 other institutions, mostly banks, to provide small and medium-sized projects with guarantees to enable them obtain loans from the local banks. The move towards expanding JLGC's role into export credit guarantees started after the Lower House turned down a project to set up an independent institution for that purpose.

According to Dr. Salah, the JLGC has started receiving applications and has signed contracts with 20 banks, of which three were foreign, to process requests for export credits. He said a total of JD 4.25 million ceiling was arranged for all banks with different ceiling for each (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

☆☆ CENTRAL BANK Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi said that the issuance of a JD 50 banknote was only an idea at present and has been under study from all aspects for the past two years. He added that if a decision is to be taken now, it would still take two years of design and printing work before the JD 50 bill enters the market. He considered those who spread devaluation tumours as seizing this opportunity to manipulate exchange rate in an unethical manner. He revealed that foreign exchange reserves at the Central Bank total $450 million and foreign currency deposits of banks were $1,100 million (Al Dustour).

☆☆ PRICES OF imported meat have dropped below the prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply. The average decline was 200 fils per kilogramme of the first grade meat stamped by a purple colour. Observers said the drop in price was due to large and cheap supplies from the meat-rich Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union and the stiff competition among traders. A ministry official said first-grade and second-grade meat prices would not exceed JD 3.100 and JD 2.500 per kilogramme under any circumstance (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ THE MINISTRY of Supply will start distributing Australian rice from the beginning of next month to be sold at both subsidised and free price along the American rice the supply of which are running low (Al Ra'i).

Jordanian businessmen find 'great potential' in the Romanian market

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A five-man trade delegation has returned with "fruitful and encouraging results" from Romania after a five-day business trip meant to introduce the Jordanian manufacturing industry to this East European country, to familiarise Jordanian businessmen with the markets there and help them conclude joint ventures and appoint agents or distributors for their products.

Organised by the Amman World Trade Centre (WTC), in cooperation with the Bucharest counterpart, the mission stemmed from a survey circulated among the members of the centre and was a follow up to the June visit of the Romanian prime minister who, came to the Kingdom accompanied by 50 Romanian businesspeople, according to trip coordinator/moderator Rodica Ma'ayta, public relations and administration manager at the Amman WTC.

Although trade relations between the two countries have a long-standing tradition, the latest trip comes in a changed business climate brought about by political changes and the launching of a market economy, said Ms. Ma'ayta.

While most businessmen seemed to agree that it is easier to import Romanian products than to export to that country, they also agreed that there is great potential regarding the Romanian market "once the new development plans are implemented," as Habib Faris, general manager of the Jordan Industrial Petrochemical Co. Ltd. put it.

"Most Romanian business attendants tried to offer their products. Few were seeking mutual cooperation through joint ventures," said Mr. Faris, adding that their visit to Romania was made to "explore new investment avenues and pave the way for the parties interested to get to know the structure of the Romanian economy and the ongoing political and economic policies."

The idea was echoed by Nicola Habash, owner and general manager of the Stars Hosiery Mfg. Co. Ltd. who said it was "easy for people intending to import, but there was need for more organisation for those interested in exporting."

Perhaps his is the most illustrative example as no offers came for importing his hosiery while in Romania (after placing ads in local newspapers he later received inquiries in Amman), but successful attempts to contact interested parties were made when he expressed interest in buying electrical installation material.

"It was nevertheless a good experience, a first step," said Mr. Habash, mentioning that Romanians are "friendly and cooperative and the country has potential and future."

"There are great possibilities, especially in industry, for joint ventures, once we get accustomed to the basic structure of the Romanian way of dealing, which is a bit different from ours," said Mr. Faris.

He sees the Romanian market as a "price competitive market, not quality oriented," where "not much can be done at the moment."

"Another disadvantage for us, Jordanian businessmen, is the fact that cheaper Turkish and Egyptian products of mediocre quality, helped by lower freight charges due to shorter distances, affect our offers to Romania," said Mr. Faris who again stressed that once the new development plans are put into practice things will change on the Romanian market.

The trade mission also included Al Zay Ready Wear Manufacturing Co., Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd. and Household Appliances Manufacturing Company Ltd. (HAMCO). Its members had the chance to hold meetings, make contracts with interested parties and visit industrial sites, plants, factories, commercial establishments and governmental institutions.

The opening session was attended by Jordan's ambassador to Romania, Fawaz Abu Tayeh. Mr. Abu Tayeh's participation, according to the participants, was very helpful. "He knows much about the Romanian market and his speech was also a brief piece of advice on how to invest and how to trade with Romanians," said Mr. Faris.

More than that, said Ms. Ma'ayta, "Ambassador Abu Tayeh expressed keen interest to follow up on our visit and coordinate with Bucharest WTC President Napoleon Pop for organising a Jordanian week in Romania."

Saudi prince gets extension to Euro Disney agreement

PARIS (R) — Theme Park operator Euro Disney said Wednesday that Walt Disney Co. and Saodi businessman Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal bave agreed to exteod a friendly sbarebolding pact for a further five years.

The prince will receive a five-year extension to an original one-year deadline wbich would bave forced him to cut his stake io Euro Disney, which runs the Disneyland Paris park, the company said in a statement.

A Euro Disney spokesman said the new agreement betweeo two of its major shareholders was a sign of confidence in the company.

"We interpret it as a sign of confideoce by an investor of international reoown in the future of the company" be said.

The Paris Bourse welcomed the news by marking the shares up 0.50 French francs to 16.35 francs ($3.19) on beavy turnover of just over two million sbares by midday.

Market analyst Veronique Adam of broker J.P. Morgan said, "It's very good news. It's a sign of the confidence the prince bas in the future and developmeot of Euro Disney's business."

"Once again it shows not only was Prince Al Waleed right to bet on the short-term but also the loog-term," she added.

The prince became a big minority shareholder in Euro Disney last year when be stepped in as a last-minute investor in its share rights issue, which raised six billin francs to cut its debt mountain which then stood at 21 billioo francs.

He sought around 24 per cent of Euro Disney shares but agreed with Walt Disney to reduce his stake within a year to half the 39.2 per cent stake beld by the U.S. company.

He currently bolds 23.6 per cent of Euro Disney, the company said. He would bave bad to sell some four per cent of that holding under the old agreement to reduce his stake.

That would bave meant an eventual 30 million shares coming on to the market, which could have weakeoed the stock price.

Analyst Nigel Reed at broker Paribas said tbe agreemeot "removes a potential trigger for the share price to fall."

The Saudi businessman bought the stock at the price of the share rights issue last year of 10 francs per share.

TCC launches $50m Eurobonds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has launched $50 million in seven-year floating rate bonds in the European market to raise part of the financing for its expansion project.

It is the first time for the TCC to tap the European money market and also marks the first time that Jordan, through the Central Bank of Jordan, sought European financing through bonds since 1990.

It is also seen as a key test for Jordan's hopes to raise international financing for many other development and infrastructure projects. It was, however, reported that the bond issue had drawn "good interest," indicative of the trend in the international money market, particularly European, to take an interest in the opportunities available in the Middle East, including Jordan, in the wake of the breakthroughs in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The lead management of the bond issue, which will help the TCC's $200 million expansion programme, has been entrusted to Paribas Capital Markets and ANZ Grindlays Bank.

The bonds, which will mature in September 2002, are guaranteed by the World Bank (for principal) and by the TCC itself for interest at slightly more than six-month London inter-bank offered rate.

The issue was listed in the capital markets of Amman and Luxembourg and will be governed by relevant English laws.

"The issue is the first guaranteed operation by the World Bank in the Middle East and has been successfully subscribed by investors in Europe, the Far East, the U.S. and the Middle East," a statement from the lead managers said. It reported "good demand from a wide variety of investors due to two main factors — it being the first opportunity to invest in a Eurobond issue for a Jordanian entity and the comfort provided by the World Bank guarantee."

It noted that the TCC "is the only provider of domestic and international public telephone services in Jordan with a network covering all the urban centres and substantial rural areas throughout the country."

"The TCC issue represents the first international bond issue out of Jordan and is the first for the telecommunication sector in the Middle East," the lead managers noted, adding that the proceeds will contribute to the expansion of the Jordanian telecommunications network.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 13/09/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	100	22750	227.750	227.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15419	69122	4.480	4.490
BANK OF JORDAN	24450	83137	3.420	3.420
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	2250	2709	1.200	1.210
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	94662	233835	2.480	2.490
THE HOUSING BANK	970	5499	5.650	5.670
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	600	1620	2.730	2.700
JORDAN GULF BANK	9000	10250	1.140	1.130
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3824	14224	3.720	3.720
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	544	2172	4.000	4.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	22717	21667	.960	.950
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	10300	16516	1.600	1.610
BANKS SECTOR	184836	483500	INDEX NUMBER: 126.42 CHANGE	: -0.07%
JORDAN INSURANCE	300	990	3.350	3.300
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2014	5317	2.620	2.640
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	59500	149940	2.540	2.520
INSURANCE SECTOR	61814	156247	INDEX NUMBER: 133.91 CHANGE	: -0.51%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	55588	93426	1.650	1.670
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	6750	38138	5.660	5.650
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8250	17275	2.100	2.090
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	31436	35948	1.130	1.140
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1850	2192	1.190	1.180
MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	8800	5938	.700	.720
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	223150	526878	2.380	2.400
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5100	16106	3.170	3.150
ZARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	9525	12971	1.340	1.370
SERVICES SECTOR	350222	750625	INDEX NUMBER: 128.22 CHANGE	: +0.04%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5891	21641	3.670	3.670
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	172	517	3.010	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	400	1968	4.950	4.920
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	640	6136	9.600	9.580
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2861	9038	3.160	3.160
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	599	4428	7.350	7.400
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3963	19838	5.000	5.010
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	475	2823	5.900	5.950
JORDAN DAIRY	765	1874	2.450	2.450
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	6974	51733	7.400	7.450
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	200	1040	5.270	5.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	338200	235937	.690	.700
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	19700	28460	1.470	1.450
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	34766	40777	1.180	1.160
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2950	5710	1.920	1.920
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	350	511	1.430	1.470
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2000	4208	2.150	2.140
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3750	12188	3.270	3.250
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	25350	51525	2.010	2.040
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	8650	14656	1.680	1.680
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	14650	20372	1.380	1.390
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI	2000	4236	2.040	2.100
INDUSTRYAL SECTOR	475656	540718	INDEX NUMBER: 125.97 CHANGE	: +0.07%
GRAND TOTAL	1072528	1931091	INDEX NUMBER: 126.13 CHANGE	: -0.02%

Financial Markets — Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NewYork Close Date 12/9/95	Tokyo Close Date 13/9/95
Sterling Pound*	1,5554	1,5519**
Deutsche Mark	1,4737	1,4003
Swiss Franc	1,2050	1,2091**
French Franc	5,0930	5,1095**
Japanese Yen	101,15	101,00
European Currency Unit	1,2700	1,2642**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening 09.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates — Date: 13/9/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5,62	5,62	5,62	5,62
Sterling Pound	6,63	6,43	6,43	6,43
Deutsche Mark	3,93	3,93	3,93	3,93
Swiss Franc	2,81	2,75	2,75	2,75
French Franc	5,67	5,62	5,62	5,62
Japanese Yen	0,37	0,37	0,37	0,43
European Currency Unit	5,37	5,37	5,37	5,43

Interbank bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals — Date: 13/9/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	385,70	7,75	Silver	5,55 h	,170

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 13/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0,715	0,717
Sterling Pound	1,1089	1,1166
Deutsche Mark	0,4826	0,4850
Swiss Franc	0,5909	0,5939
French Franc	0,1399	0,1406
Japanese Yen*	0,7016	0,7051
Dutch Guilder	0,4309	0,4331
Swedish Krona	----	----
Italian Lira*	0,0443	0,0445
Belgian Franc	----	----

* Per 100

Other Currencies — Date: 13/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1,8790	1,8900
Lebanese Lira*	0,043565	0,044475
Saudi Riyal	0,1902	0,1916
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,3000	2,3360
Qatari Riyal	0,1951	0,1964
Egyptian Pound	0,2080	0,2100
Omani Riyal	1,8470	1,8560
UAE Dirham	0,1940	0,1950
Greek Drachma*	0,2775	0,3265
Cypriot Pound	1,5015	1,5715

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession oo the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3464/74	Canadian dollar
	1.4846/56	Deutschemarks
	1.6626/36	Dutch guilders
	1.2138/48	Swiss francs
	30.52/56	Belgian francs
	5.1260/10	French francs
	1617.4/8.4	Italian lire
	102.33/43	Japanese yen
	7.1030/30	Swedish crowns
	6.4850/00	Norwegian crowns
	5.7488/38	Danisb crowns
One Sterling	$1.5498/08	
One ounce of gold	$385.40/385.80	

Amman hosts Asian Olympic qualifier

Kingdom's team takes on Qatar Friday

By Aleen Banayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's national soccer team Friday takes on Qatar as Al Hussein Sports City Stadium hosts the opening match of the Asian Group 8 Olympic qualifier.

Jordan's group also includes Iraq who will be playing and later hosting their first international tournament since U.N. sanctions were imposed following the 1990 Gulf war.

The eight Asian group winners will qualify to the second round following which the top three teams will represent Asia in next year's centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The Kingdom's team was regrouped over five months ago and received the careful attention of Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Chairman His Royal Higbness Prince Abdullah. The team had 12 official practice matches in Taiwan, Russia and Lebanon and nine matches with top local teams.

The team includes Abdul Naser Jibril, Raed Salman, Turki Sawalha, Abdullah Abu Zame'h, Ayman Abu Hableh, Amjad Taher, Amjad Abu Tu'yemeh, Samir Lutfieh, Faisal Ibrahim, Adnan Awad, Isa Azayzeh, Walid Abdul Rahman, Saher Hijawi, Abdullah Shiyab, Sufyan Abdullah, Ali Juma'a, Badran Al Sbaqran, Mazen Anbar, Husam Hammash, Bassam Al Khatib, Munir Hantash. They represent nine clubs: Al Wihdat 5, Al Ramtha 3, Al Hussein 3, Ahli 3, Jazireb 2, Baqaa 2, Qadissieh, Faisali and Arabi 1.

Jordan's national Olympic team

The final lineup was not officially announced, but the players represent the best youth members of Jordan's top teams. Seventy players bad been originally called up. After a training camp they were reduced to 54 from 16 clubs and then later chosen after the practice matches.

The team then bad a carefully drawn-up series of 21 practice matches bere and abroad. Results came as follows:

In tbeir first matcb Iraq's Zawra'a beat Jordan 2-1.

On a training camp in Russia they lost to the Lebanese national team 2-1 in Beirut before arriving in Amman Tuesday. However, the team had impressive results in the Junior World Cup in Doha recently where they lost 2-0 to Brazil, 1-0 to Syria and drew 1-1 with Russia.

The powerful Iraqi team had training matches in Malaysia, Romania and India and displayed they were making a strong comeback to the Asian soccer scene.

In Malaysia the Iraqi team drew 2-2 with South Korea, beat Malaysia 2-1, and Bulgaria 1-0 before defeating Hungary 2-0 in the final match to win the Mardeca Tournament trophy.

Schedule of matches

Date		Venue
Friday 15/9	Jordan vs Qatar	Amman
Friday 22/9	Qatar vs. Iraq	Doha
Friday 29/9	Jordan vs. Iraq	Amman
Friday 6/10	Qatar vs. Jordan	Doha
Friday 13/10	Iraq vs. Qatar	Baghdad
Friday 20/10	Iraq vs. Jordan	Baghdad

Jordan takes part in qualifiers for fifth time

Here is a brief look at Jordan's past participation in Olympic qualifiers:

☆☆ In 1980: The team had only four practice matches. In the qualifying round they lost all four matches 4-0 to Iraq, 2-1 to Yemen, 2-0 to Syria, and 1-0 to Kuwait.

☆☆ In 1983 the team had 12 practice matches: In the qualifiers Jordan lost five matches and drew in one (0-0 against Qatar). They lost 3-2 and 1-0 to Syria, 2-1 to Qatar and 3-0 and 2-0 to Kuwait.

☆☆ In 1987 the team had seven practice matches. In the qualifying round Jordan lost three matches and drew 1-1 with the United Arab Emirates. They lost 2-1 and 2-0 to Iraq, and 3-0 to the UAE.

☆☆ The Kingdom's team achieved their best result in 1991 scoring the first wins 2-1 and 7-0 over Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka before losing 4-1 to Bahrain.

Jordan played five matches winning 4-2 over a team from Moscow and 3-1 over Kamaz of Tatarstan, but losing the next three 1-0 to CSKA and 6-0 Dynamo Moscow before drawing 1-1 with Ramenk.

In Taiwan the Kingdom's team beat a South Korean team 2-0 then lost to 3-1 to Hong Kong, 2-1 to North Korea, before losing on penalties to Taiwan.

On the local scene, the national team beat Al Wihdat 5-0 and 2-1, Qadissieh 1-0, Jazireh 3-0, drew 1-1 with Al Faisali and Al Hussein, 3-3 with Al Jazireh before losing 2-1 to Al Ramtha and the Amman Municipality team.

In their most recent matches Jordan lost to the Lebanese national team 4-2 and 3-1.

Their opponents in the group had careful training of their own.

The Qatari team practised in Europe namely in Germany and Denmark. In their latest match

Samaranch hints at retirement

HARARE (AFP) — International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch hinted Wednesday that he may not stand for reelection in 1997.

"I will decide four or five months before the election," said the 75-year-old rejecting claims that he was determined to stay on as president into the next century.

"The year 2000 is too far away. At my age I take one year at a time," he said.

IOC members revolted against Samaranch at the IOC session in Budapest in June when the former Spanish diplomat lost by two votes to have the age limit dropped altogether.

It was only after furious behind-the-scenes manoeuvring later in the session that the age limit was raised to 80, allowing Samaranch to put himself forward in 1997 for a fourth term.

One of Samaranch's main rivals for the presidency is Canada's IOC Executive Board member Dick Pound.

The 53-year-old lawyer was bitterly opposed to dropping the age limit, claiming that such a move would make the IOC a laughing stock.

Attempts to decertify NBA players' union fail

NEW YORK (AP) — The efforts to decertify basketball's union failed Tuesday by an overwhelming margin, paving the way for labor peace in the National Basketball Association.

In an election held by the National Labor Relations Board, 226 players voted to keep their union and 134 voted to decertify. The outcome clears the way for the player representatives to approve a new labour contract Wednesday in Chicago and for owners to approve it Monday in New York.

"Obviously, we're pleased about the results," said Russ Granik, the league's deputy commissioner. "It demonstrates they will make up their own minds about their own destiny and not be controlled by a group of agents and outside lawyers."

The union leadership bad struck a deal with the league in June, but a group of agents, who represented Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing among others, forced players to table the vote and started the decertification effort.

In August, the union and NBA struck a modified deal that was slightly more favourable for the players but still closed many of the loopholes in the league's salary cap. That agreement is the one scheduled for a vote on Wednesday, with approval needed by 21 of the 27 player reps.

"The turnout by players was very impressive," NBA commissioner David Stern said of the nearly 90 per cent turnout rate. "They educated themselves about the issues and they demonstrated that they cared about our fans and the future of our league."

If the deal is approved, NBA owners are expected to lift the lockout they began July 1. If that happens, training camps would open Oct. 6 and the season would begin as scheduled on Nov. 3.

"The players want to play basketball," said Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers, the president of the NBA union. "We believe we got a fair agreement."

In balloting on Aug. 30 and Sept. 7, players cast tbeir votes in large numbers, the heavy turnout believed to benefit the union.

Seven-goal Barcelona show Euro superpowers the way

PARIS (AFP) — Soccer superpowers AC Milan and Barcelona took the lead roles in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday as the top clubs opened their campaigns with dominating performances.

The Spaniards notched up seven away goals in their first-leg match while the Italians helped themselves to four at home.

The supporting cast, meanwhile — stuffed with famous clubs — saw English trio Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester United, all take the first steps in reviving great European traditions.

But Germany's Bayern Munich caught stage fright as it crashed to a sbock 1-0 home defeat against Lokomotive Moscow.

Johan Cruyff's new-look Barcelona — now without the likes of former European stars Hristo Stoichkov and Ronald Koeman — did not waste mucb time after travelling to Israel and Hapoel Beer Sheva.

Ivan De La Pena opened with a fourth-minute goal and Garcia Ruger made it two on the stroke of half-time before the Catalans ran riot in the second half.

Roger added two more goals to earn a hat-trick, with five more goals coming in the final half-hour.

Milan, meanwhile, who beat Barcelona in the European Champions Cup two years ago only to lose the title to Ajax last season, were almost as ruthless against Polish visitors Zaglebie Lubin.

Dejan Savicevic opened the Serie A side's account after 19 minutes and Matchaj, former Paris Saint Germain star George Weah and Zvonimir Boban completed proceedings after the break.

Leeds United, three-times winner of the UEFA trophy, are also all but guaranteed a place in the next round after a 3-0 away win at Monaco that rated as one of the best of the day.

Tony Yeboah emulated Roger with a hat-trick of his own. The former Eintracht Frankfurt striker, who has helped Yorkshire fans forget former French favourite Eric Cantona, continued his prolific run with a neatly-poached goal after three minutes, a devastating dribble and drive after 65 and an electric acceleration and lob inside the last ten minutes.

Monaco were left stunned, no more so than former Glasgow Rangers defender Basile Boli and goalkeeper Marc Delaroche, both stretchered off to hospital after colliding in a vain attempt to thwart Yeboah's third.

Leeds' performance against the much-fancied French, whose Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson missed two guilt-edged chances, reflected just how many quality teams are in the UEFA Cup this year, a tournament which could prove even harder to win than both the European Champions Cup or the Cup Winners' Cup.

England's other entrants, Liverpool and Manchester United, also did their causes no harm. Liverpool, who like Leeds have won this tournament three times, came back from Russia with a 2-1 win over league leaders Spartak Vladikavkaz.

Ian Rush was absent through injury but England internationals Steve McManaman (36th minute) and Jamie Rednapp (53rd) combined to settle the game.

Manchester United, meanwhile, fielding a team with five players aged 21 or under, showed impressive maturity to come away with a 0-0 draw at Rotor Volgograd.

UEFA Cup first round first leg results

- ☆ Slovan Bratislava — Kaiserslautern 2-1
- ☆ Slavia Prague-Freiburg 2-1
- ☆ Zimbru Chisinau-Raf Riga 1-0
- ☆ Manchester United-Rotor Volgograd 0-0
- ☆ Aalst-Levski Sofia 2-1
- ☆ Mypa-Eindhoven 1-1
- ☆ Chornomerts Odessa- Widzew Lodz 1-0
- ☆ Auxerre-Viking Stavanger 1-1
- ☆ Betis-Fenerbahce 2-1
- ☆ Malmo-Nottingham Forest 2-1
- ☆ Liverpool-Spartak Vladikafkaz 2-1
- ☆ Brondby-Lillestroem 3-0
- ☆ Olympiakos Piraens-Maribor Branik 2-0
- ☆ Barcelona-Hapoel Beersheba 7-0
- ☆ Lokomotive Moscow-Bayern Munich 1-0
- ☆ Silkeborg-Sparta Prague 1-0
- ☆ Raith Rovers-Akranes 3-1
- ☆ Benfica-Lierse 3-1
- ☆ Dynamo Minsk-FK Austria 2-1
- ☆ Roda Jc Kerkrade-Olympija Ljublana 5-0
- ☆ Internazionale-Lugano 1-1
- ☆ As Roma-Neuchatal Xamax 1-1
- ☆ leeds-Monaco 3-0
- ☆ Vitoria SC-Standard Leige 3-1
- ☆ Lazio-Omonia Nicosia 5-0
- ☆ AC Milan-Zaglebie Lublin 4-0
- ☆ Strasbourg - Ujpest Budapest 3-0
- ☆ Sevilla-Botev Plovdiv 2-0

All Africa Games

Sporting map redrawn by S. African debut

HARARE (AFP) — The 10-day, sixth All Africa Games open here on Wednesday with South Africa certain to create ripples, if not waves, in the medals table.

Once banished from world sport because of their apartheid policies, South Africa, who have since won Rugby's World Cup and competed in the Olympics, are set to gauge their sporting strength against Africa's best.

More than 5,000 athletes from 48 nations compete in this four-yearly event, boosted by a 200 million Zimbabwe dollar ($23 million) cash injection from Robert Mugabe's government.

Egypt have topped the medal standings four out of five times in the Games' 30-year history, but South Africa could change all that.

Once Kenya, Egypt, and Nigeria ruled the continent. But South Africa is set to make inroads and redraw the balance of sporting power.

Kenyan coach Joseph Kahare had no doubts South Africa would make their mark in this 21-sport event marshalled by 5,000 volunteers.

"South Africa are a powerhouse in sport — they'll be winning medals," he said. Ethiopia's assistant athletics coach Mulugeta Melese agreed with Kahare's view, and Zimbabwe official Artwell Mandaza added Africa's sporting map would change for good.

Zimbabwe's sporting prowess is also likely to be boosted by the impetus these Games will bring, said Mandaza, who lights the flame at the 5-30 p.m. (1530 GMT) opening ceremony at the national stadium.

Apart from the new 87.5 million Zimbabwe dollar swimming complex at Chitungwiza, two hockey stadiums costing 100 million Zimbabwe dollars and a refurbished national stadium, enthusiasm for sport across the nation will be a major plus.

"Sport in Zimbabwe can only benefit from hosting these games. A new generation of sportmen in Zimbabwe will come through," Mandaza added.

Kenneth Harnden, the host nation's big hope in the 400m hurdles, said: "These Games will lift the whole nation. And if Zimbabwe get a few medals, so much the better."

Zimbabwe sprinter Thabani Gonye, hoping to make the 100m and 200m finals, said: "It's just so exciting to be here and to be part of the team."

And to motivate home competitors, Mugabe has promised individual winners 2,300 U.S. dollars and team gold medallists 11,500 U.S. dollars with silver and bronze medallists also rewarded.

However, the Games have not been without problems with athletes and volunteers having lengthy waits for accreditation, and hotel rooms often not ready.

The genuine desire to help by the local population, hotel staff and organisers has been hampered by insufficient experience in dealing with an event of this size.

Fredericks and Matete go missing

HARARE (AFP) — Namibian sprint star Frankie Fredericks and Zambian 400m hurdle Samuel Matete are the latest athletes to go missing from the All Africa Games.

Both men were due in on a flight from Frankfurt via London on Tuesday morning but the plane arrived without the two athletes on board.

There was no immediate word when or if they will arrive.

Fredericks, winner of the 100m and 200m at the last All Africa Games in Cairo, double silver medallist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and a 200m silver medallist at last month's world championships in Sweden, is due to run his first race on Thursday.

Matete, world champion in 1991 and silver medallist at the 1993 and 1995 championships, has his first round heat scheduled for Friday.

If both runners fail to turn up it will be the final blow to organisers who have seen the continent's star athletes pull out one after the other.

Pole vaulter Okkert Brits, who this year became the second best performer of all-time behind world champion Sergey Bubka, and Olympic Games 10,000m silver medallist Elana Meyer have withdrawn from South Africa's squad.

Also out are Ethiopia's double distance world record holder Haile Gebreselassie and women's Olympic 10,000m champion Deratu Tulu, Algeria's world 1,500m champion Noureddine Morceli and women's 1,500m Olympic and world champion Hassiba Boulmerka.

The sudden absence of the cream of Africa's athletes brought a rebuke from International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

"In the future we would like to discuss the dates of the next All Africa Games with the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) so they won't clash with important events, say in Europe. This will allow top athletes to come to the All Africa Games," Samaranch said on Monday.

Chaos strikes African Games

Foreign dignitaries and athletes trying to get their passes for the 6th All Africa Games were jostled here by police on Tuesday as the computer system failed.

Tempers flared when VIP's, athletes and local MPs, who had been queuing for several hours in the sweltering sunshine, were forced to go through the whole procedure again when their names did not show up on the computer.

Al Ahli represent Jordan as Asia's best club teams meet in Malaysia

By Aleen Banayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's basketball champions Al Ahli Thursday leave for Kuala Lumpur, to represent Jordan in the sixth Asian Basketball Confederation Champions Cup which will be held in the Malaysian capital Sept. 17-24.

Al Ahli will be playing in Group A together with Liaoning (China), Hong Fu (Taiwan), and the champions of Iran and the Philippines.

Group B includes Japan Energy, Kia Motor (South Korea), Sin Kee (Singapore), Punjab (India) and Petronas (Malaysia).

After a one round-robin, the top two teams in each group will meet in the final round. The winners will play for top two places and the losers for third and fourth while the rest of the teams play for fifth-10th places.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Al Ahli's Chairman Adnan Naghaway said he was hopeful the Jordanian champions, the only Arab team in the tournament, will fare well against other Asian champions but he also noted preparations for the tournament did not go according to plan.

"We had hoped we could have some training camps in neighbouring countries, but a host of reason prevented us from doing that."

Mr. Naghaway, who will be heading Al Ahli's delegation, said many of the team's players had injuries during the past month — a fact that hampered the team's overall preparations.

The team only hosted Iraq's Al Shurta, and played a series of friendlies against third-placed Al Jazireh.

Al Ahli's lineup will include the team's top stars Marwan Ma'touq, Naser Bushnaq and Yousef Zaghloul. In addition the team includes Ramez Hammoudeh, Riyad Ayesh, Faisal Nsour, Wisam Nino, Walid Badran, Taimour Shamali, Marwan Saeedi, Nihad Madi and Sami Saduldin.

The organisers said each team is allowed to register two foreign players in the championship which was revived after three years and will be an annual affair from now on.

The Kingdom's basketball champions — Al Ahli

Schedule of matches

17/9	Ahli-Iran
19/9	Ahli-Philippines
20/9	Ahli-Taiwan
21/9	Ahli-China

Ivanisevic advances in Bordeaux; Rosset out

BORDEAUX (Agencies) — Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia defeated Paul Wakesa of Kenya, 6-3, 6-1, to advance to the second round of the $400,000 passing shot tennis tournament Tuesday.

Marc Rosset of Switzerland, seeded third, had to retire from his match against Italy's Stefano Pescosolido when he couldn't continue with a blister on his hand. Pescosolido led 6-1, 1-0, when Rosset quit.

In other first round matches, Frenchman Lionel Roux defeated compatriot Henri Leconte, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland beat Alexander Mronz of Germany, 6-3, 6-3; qualifer Danny Sapsford of Britain routed Gianluca Pozzi of Italy, 6-1, 6-2 and sixth-seeded Olivier Delaitre of France topped Nuno Marques of Portugal, 6-4, 6-2.

Two other British players lost. Radomir Vasek of the Czech republic down Chris Wilkinson 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 and Johan Van Herck of Belgium eliminated Jeremy Bates, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1).

Wilander back for Sweden

Sweden's Matts Wilander returns to Davis Cup tennis next week after an absence of five years, organisers said on Tuesday.

Wilander, 31, who played in three winning Swedish teams in the 1980s, was named by captain Carl-Axel Hageskog for the semi-final clash with the USA in Las Vegas from Sept. 22.

Japanese superbiker dies after crash coma

ASSEN, Netherlands (R) — Japanese motorcycle rider Yasutomo Nagai has died of head injuries sustained in a crash during a race in the World Superbike Championships on Sunday, his Yamaha team said on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Rider was rushed unconcious to hospital on Sunday after crashing on the 15th lap of the 16-lap second race of the meeting. Nagai was hit by his machine after skidding to avoid a patch of oil.

He remained in a coma until doctors pronounced him dead late on Tuesday evening.

"Yasutomo passed away peacefully on Tuesday evening in the presence of his girlfriend and parents," Yamaha said in a statement.

"We are all extremely upset about what happened and we feel terribly sad for Yasu's family and girlfriend," Yamaha sporting director Christian Sarron said.

"Absolutely no blame whatsover can be apportioned for the accident... Assen is one of the safest tracks in the world, it was not a high speed crash and normally a rider would have got up and walked away and that just makes it harder to accept," Sarron added.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♡AQ104 ◇AKJ872 ♣92
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q. 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K762 ♡AKJ65 ◇A5 ♣72
The bidding has proceeded:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1♡
Pass	?		

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ10653 ♡Void ◇AJ7 ♣AK63
The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♡	Dbl	Pass
?			

What action do you take?

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q7 ♡K95 ◇AQ1052 ♣QJ7
The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	1♡	1♠	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K3 ♡K10654 ◇Q54 ♣852
The bidding has proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♡	Pass	?

What action do you take?

Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠73 ♡J9852 ◇AK94 ♣72
The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♡	3♠
?			

What action do you take?

Libya expels more, but says it may call a stop

SALLOUM, Egypt (Agencies) — Libya said Wednesday it may call a halt to the expulsion of Palestinian workers, as hundreds more were expected at the Egyptian border where 32 families are already stranded.

Officials at the border post of Salloum said 20 busloads of Palestinians were expected later the same day on their way to Jordan and the self-rule area of Gaza, as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat appealed to Egyptian President Hosni Mubark and the Arab League to intervene.

However in Tripoli, an official said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi may reverse his decision to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living there out of humanitarian concerns.

The expulsions have "achieved their goal, which is to show up the monstrous bartering over the mini-state and what is being done in the name of the Palestinians," said Ahmad Ibrahim, a member of parliament's politbureau.

Colonel Qadhafi began to throw out Palestinians earlier this month and urged other Arab states to do likewise to show up the failure of the PLO's self-rule deal with Israel.

"A review of this decision which will be based on humanitarian considerations and not on nationalist policy is necessary, especially after the refusal of some Arab countries to welcome the Palestinians," Mr. Ibrahim said.

Some 100 Palestinians have been stranded in no-man's land on the Egypt-Libya border for the past two weeks after being turned back by Egypt, and despite a wave of Arab and international protest at the expulsions.

The 32 stranded families, who are living in wooden cabins, appealed for help from the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA.

"I don't know how long this will go on," said Issam Abdul Radi, a teacher who was kicked out of Libya with his family. "Winter is coming and we can't see light at the end of the tunnel. I hope UNRWA finds a solution."

Mr. Arafat has condemned the Libyan leader's action as a "crime."

Ten hardline Palestinian opposition groups based in Syria issued a statement Wednesday urging Col. Qadhafi to call a halt to deportations which they said had "traumatised the Palestinian people."

Eleven Palestinian families have been camped since last week at the Rafah border post between Egypt and Gaza, with Israel refusing to let them in.

In Sidon, Palestinians in Lebanon's largest refugee camp went on strike to protest the expulsion and the Beirut government's decision to ban the entry of Palestinians.

Teenage boys and older men burned tires at the entrances of the teeming 'In Al Hilweh camp, where shops were closed and most of the 70,000 inhabitants stayed indoors.

The strike at 'In Al Hilweh, on the outskirts of this southern provincial capital 32 kilometres south of Beirut, was not observed at other refugee camps in Lebanon.

The strike was also staged to protest the second anniversary of the signing of the 1993 PLO-Israel accord on Palestinian self-rule.

The Lebanese government, fearing an influx of Palestinians expelled by Libya, decided Saturday to impose visa restrictions on all Palestinians wishing to enter Lebanon. The move was condemned by Palestinian officials.

"We staged a strike today to underscore our condemnation of Libya's decision of mass deportation of Palestinians working there," Abed Makdah, a local leader in the camp, said.

Libya has also been expelling other Arab workers without work permits, abandoning a policy of open borders with its neighbours.

QATARI EMIR'S VISIT: The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, bids farewell to Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan upon his departure from Amman after a brief visit on Wednesday (see page one) (Petra photo)

France attempts to soothe EU, Japan

PARIS (R) — France announced moves to soothe European and Japanese opposition to its South Pacific nuclear weapons tests on Wednesday in an effort to limit diplomatic damage among its major trading partners.

The government said it would allow the European Commission to send experts immediately to check radioactivity monitoring at its test sites on Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls and agreed to meet a Japanese envoy dispatched to protest against last week's first of a series of planned tests.

European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said he had written to the European commissioner for the environment and nuclear security, Ritt Bjerregaard, saying a delegation was welcome to go to the atolls, and passing on more information on radiation levels during the last series of tests in 1991-93.

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette meanwhile agreed to meet Japanese special envoy Nobuo Matsunaga after Tokyo dissociated itself from Finance Minister Masaboshi Takemura's participation in an anti-nuclear march in Tahiti.

The foreign ministry had said on Tuesday it might refuse to see Mr. Matsunaga, a former ambassador to the United States. But it expressed satisfaction with a statement by Foreign Minister Yohei Kono that Mr. Takemura had acted in a private capacity and in no way reflected Japanese government positions.

Mr. Takemura had described as "crazy" the resumption of nuclear testing, which came on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the World War II destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by U.S. atomic bombs in which 210,000 people were killed.

Mr. Barnier said Paris was going beyond its legal obligations under the Euratom Treaty, which governs civilian nuclear energy, in a spirit of "openness and clarity" in hopes that the European Commission and parliament would view the tests "objectively."

Thirteen of France's 14 partners voiced opposition to its testing programme at an EU foreign ministers' meeting in Spain last weekend and the European Parliament gave President Jacques Chirac a rowdy anti-nuclear reception in July.

The Executive Commission has avoided condemning the French tests but complained that it had not been given sufficient information on radiation levels.

Paris had previously said commission experts would be allowed to visit the area only after the series of six to eight underground tests was completed, as part of an international automic energy agency (IAEA) mission.

"I will tell Mrs. Bjerregaard that if the commission wishes to visit the atolls, we see no objection and are ready to receive them as early as tomorrow morning," Mr. Barnier told journalists of the Europresse Association.

He said France would also send Brussels the reports of its atomic energy commission and the defence ministry's nuclear test centre directorate on radiation levels at the test sites in 1991-92, during the last series of explosions.

The French moves came as the 16-nation South Pacific Forum began a meeting that will consider action against France to show outrage at its resumption on nuclear testing.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan said Australia and New Zealand would make presentations to the forum on Thursday on what to do about France's new series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Draft of 'Arab code of honour' is ready

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League has prepared a "Code of Honour on Arab Cooperation and Security" for approval by Arab foreign ministers in Cairo next week and officials said they hoped it would help the organisation finally put the Gulf crisis behind it.

The Arab League was paralysed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 because of deep differences between members on how to react to the U.S.-led military campaign to drive the Iraqis back.

Since then Arab ministerial meetings have tended to postpone debate on difficult issues and the league has a financial crisis as most of the 22 members have not paid their dues.

An Arab diplomat who took part in discussions on the three-page draft, which includes generally worded principles to guide inter-Arab relations, said they deliberately kept the document short.

He said their guiding principle was to avoid controversial issues and they have failed to set clear definitions for concepts enshrined in the document.

"The document speaks of belonging to the Arab Nation and Arab identity as the basis for unity while each Arab country has its own definition for these terms, and might not be working towards that end in the first place," said the diplomat, who did not want his name nor that of his country to be mentioned.

The same diplomat added that participants in the discussions, especially among the Gulf countries, were keen to emphasise principles of sovereignty and prohibiting intervention in the internal affairs of each government or challenging its control over natural resources.

Article seven of the general principles prohibits the use of force, or the threat to use it in the case of any conflict between two Arab countries. It said that if one country used force against another, other members should join in to defend the country subject to aggression.

The document also marks a change in the Arab attitude towards Israel, stating that the member states were committed to establishing "comprehensive, just and permanent peace" and liberating all occupied Arab territories. Earlier league documents referred to Israel as the common enemy.

And in an attempt to satisfy Arab countries hit by militant violence over the past few years, the code of honour says Arab states should "confront terrorism and not assist terrorist elements or actions in any direct or indirect form."

It also called for stronger economic cooperation between Arab countries, reflecting the new thinking among several league members that if they were not able to agree on politics, they might agree on business.

One of the mechanism which the code of honour suggests to solve inter-Arab disputes is a court of justice, similar to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

The Arab ministers, at their meeting on Sept. 20, are also supposed to approve the statues of the court, including the system for electing its proposed seven judges.

The draft statutes say Arab countries who resort to it should not file another case in local or international courts.

"We see no reason why both the code of honour and the Arab Court of Justice should not be approved in the coming meeting," said Talat Hamed, a league spokesman. "It has been in discussion for a long time and the majority of members agree on the importance of restoring shattered solidarity," he added.

S. Arabia wants closer cooperation with Japan

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd assured Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama he supported renewing a large Japanese oil concession and stressed he wanted greater economic ties, diplomats said on Wednesday.

One diplomat said: "The king told the prime minister "do not worry," when Mr. Murayama said Japan was interested in renewing its drilling rights in the Arabian Oil Company (AOC) concession in offshore oilfields near the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Mr. Murayama is on the first tour of the Middle East by a Japanese prime minister in the two years since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace treaty, and is keen to show Japan's support for the peace process and boost trade ties.

Japanese diplomats said King Fahd, at a late night meeting on Tuesday in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, voiced Saudi interest in seeing more Japanese investment in the kingdom.

Japan ranks second to the United States in terms of investment in the kingdom but the vast majority of its investments are tied up in developing its oil concessions, while Saudi Arabia is keen to encourage more diversified investment.

"King Fahd stressed that Tokyo and Riyadh need to strengthen economic relations to deepen their friendship, and called on Murayama to set up a joint oil refining company," Japan's Kyodo News Agency reported.

AOC, the largest Japanese operator of oilfields in the Middle East, produces about 250,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) from the offshore fields. Japan's share ends in the year 2000.

Japan imports one million bpd of oil from Saudi Arabia, covering 22 per cent of domestic oil consumption.

Japanese diplomats said a $50 million joint venture to set up a pharmaceutical plant in Jeddah was also under discussion.

"In terms of Japanese direct investment to Saudi Arabia, it is currently a high priority for both the public and private sectors of Japan to expand the level of investment in Saudi Arabia," Mr. Murayama told the English-language Riyadh Daily in an interview published on Wednesday.

Kyodo quoted Mr. Murayama as telling the king that Japan will play a "positive and constructive" role for peace and stability in the Middle East. He is due to travel on to Egypt, Syria, Israel, Gaza and Jordan and meet leaders there.

Arrests continue in France

PARIS (R) — French police investigating a spate of bomb attacks detained 12 people Wednesday in fresh swoops on suspected Muslim fundamentalist hideouts, extending their search to the Italian border, officials said.

The dawn raids targeted the Paris and Lyon areas, already searched by police in the past few days, as well as the sleepy 1,300-metre high Alpine town of Briancon on the Italian border, the interior ministry said.

The swoops on possible Islamic Armed Guard (GIA) refugees have so far failed to catch the only suspect directly identified, 24-year-old Algerian-born Khaled Kelkal, whose fingerprints were found on an unexploded bomb planted last month on a high-speed TGV railway line near Lyon.

Judicial sources said that all 36 people detained in Paris on Monday were released because no evidence was found linking them to the summer attacks, which have killed seven people and wounded more than 130.

Grenade hits U.S. embassy in Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A rocket-propelled grenade slammed into the U.S. embassy in Moscow on Wednesday, but was stopped by a large photocopying machine behind the building's thick brick walls.

No one was injured in the attack.

The grenade hit the facade at the level of the sixth floor with a huge boom, and a thick cloud of smoke swirled around the embassy.

It gouged out some brick and plaster and scorched the yellow wall, smashing two windows and startling people inside and outside the 10-storey building on Moscow's busy garden ring.

Glass and shrapnel fragments, including what looked like the tail of grenade, littered the pavement in front of the embassy.

Embassy spokesman Richard Hoagland said the missile, fired at 4:25 p.m. (1325 GMT) penetrated the wall and exploded inside a large photocopy machine in a small room. The machine absorbed most of the shock.

No one was in the room and no one was injured, he said.

Russia placed its security forces in Moscow on high alert after the attack, a spokesman for the security services said.

A high alert allows the troops to halt any vehicle and enter any building.

The spokesman, quoted by Interfax news agency, said "such incidents are no joke — this is an act of international terrorism."

He said the last time such an alert was ordered in Moscow was during the storming of the White House, formerly the parliament building, to oust hardliners opposed to President Boris Yeltsin in October 1993.

The incident occurred amid bilateral tension caused by NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces. Moscow has expressed fierce opposition to the strike.

A grenade-launcher, black mask and one glove were found later in an archway across the busy street opposite the embassy, located in the city centre near the Russian government building, Mr. Hoagland said.

Mr. Hoagland said nobody had been arrested after the incident and no threats had been made beforehand. The grenade did not cause a fire in the building.

Buildings near the embassy were also evacuated, he said.

A spokesman for the Russian security forces quoted by Interfax news agency said an armour-piercing grenade was used and it damaged fax machines and computers in the embassy.

Expert sounds strong warning over intellectual property rights in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's hope for the economic dividends of peace will not be and cannot be realised until the Kingdom offers an internationally accepted level of protection for copyrights, patents and trade marks, a leading consultant and expert on intellectual property rights warned Wednesday.

Talal Abu Ghazaleh, president of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP), also called on the Jordanian government "to take a totally new look at the entire range of issues of intellectual property rights (IPR) and draw up new laws with a clear understanding of what is required."

Talking on plans to convene a meeting later this month of the ASPIP and the Pharmaceutical Trade Marks Group (PTMG), Mr. Abu Ghazaleh was emphatic that proposed amendments to a 1992 Jordanian copyrights law were "nowhere near the minimum level of protection that the international community demands.

"The law does not meet the minimum level as stipulated in the TRIPS (trade related intellectual property rights) chapter of GATT (general agreement on tariffs and trade)," said Mr. Abu Ghazaleh.

The Sept. 28-30 ASPIP meeting, expected to be opened by His Majesty King Hussein, will discuss issues such as:

— Protection of copyright in Arab countries,

— registration of pharmaceutical brands in Arab countries,

— actions to be taken by Arab states to implement the TRIPS agreement on the protection of pharmaceutical trade marks,

— the need for (IPR) recognition by the Arab League, and

— the need for an Arab patent office.

In addition, the ASPIP will hold its annual general meeting as well as board meetings.

A good part of the meeting will also be devoted to training in intellectual property rights, something that officials and diplomats agree is vitally needed by the Jordanian business community.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who visited Jordan twice in the last two years, brought up the subject of IPR with his local counterparts, prompting the draft amendments, but little else has been done on patents and trademarks.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, whose Talal Abu Ghazaleh International consulting firm has drafted copyrights, patents and trademarks law for more than 10 Arab countries, cautioned that Jordan was on a "watch list" maintained by the U.S. Trade Representative Office under a legislation known as Super 301.

Talal Abu Ghazaleh

It is "only a matter of time before it is moved to priority watch list" and Washington imposes sanctions against Jordan for violating intellectual property rights if the Kingdom does not adjust itself to the reality of having to respect IPR, he said.

The warning comes ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October when Jordan is hoping to attract foreign investments in infrastructure, development and commercial projects.

"There is no point in any country hoping to become a market for technology transfer, foreign investments and increased bilateral trade if that country cannot offer the minimum level of protection for intellectual property rights," said Mr. Abu Ghazaleh.

Jordan is not notorious for violation of intellectual property rights, nor is it known for protecting the rights.

"But if Jordan is hoping to attract foreign investment, then it must realise that international firms, particularly American companies, will be closely looking at the record of the country in protecting the rights of others," said Mr. Abu Ghazaleh.

"We cannot defend on any ground for not granting the right of intellectual property to its rightful owners. It is against our culture and religion," he said citing a saying by the Prophet Mohammad.

In the long-term, resorting to piracy is detrimental to any country's drive to develop its own "intellectual, creative and innovative skills," Mr. Abu Ghazaleh asserted.

"Why should anyone put in an effort when all you have to do is to pirate other people's work?" Such an approach, he noted, "will deprive any country of the real base for intellectual development."

In the absence of statistics, it is difficult to estimate the loss incurred by intellectual property right owners as a result of violations taking place in Jordan. Abu Ghazaleh said: "But certainly it is in tens of millions of dollars."

Hundreds of shops offer pirated video copies of foreign films and audio cassettes are scattered throughout Jordan. In addition, there are more than 350 computer companies, many of which make no secret of their clandestine copying of software.

Dozens of photocopying centres surround the University of Jordan in Amman and other universities outside the capital to cater to the students' needs for copies of international, mostly American and European, textbooks.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh conceded that, given the size of business done by violators of intellectual property rights in Jordan, "there will be intermediary damages" as and when the government enacts tough laws and enforces them — meaning that the violators will not only be closed down and deprived of their clandestine property but also jailed or heavily fined.

"But that is a price any country has to pay for the transition from a developing to a developed country," said Mr. Abu Ghazaleh. "If you are not ready to pay that price, then the fate that awaits you is economic degradation and stagnation."

COLUMN 8

Thai king leaves hospital after surgery

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyadej returned to his Bangkok palace from hospital nine days after undergoing treatment to relieve a constricted coronary artery, an official of the Royal Household said Wednesday. King Bhumibol, who was discharged from Siriraj Hospital and returned to Chitrlada Palace had angioplasty treatment on Sept. 3. The king's condition was considered satisfactory and he was continuing to improve and had returned to the palace to recuperate, the official said. King Bhumibol, 67, had similar angioplasty treatment in March. He was admitted to hospital on Sept. 3 after showing some abnormal coronary symptoms, the Royal Household said earlier.

Patient says hospital left towel inside him

MIAMI (AP) — Samuel Hernandez underwent surgery in 1988 because of internal bleeding. The operation stopped the bleeding but not the pain. Mr. Hernandez went back to the surgeon in 1990. The diagnosis this time: gas. In 1993, Mr. Hernandez, a social worker, went to another doctor, who X-rayed his stomach. The source of Mr. Hernandez's pain for the past five years — A surgical towel that had been left inside his abdomen. The doctor removed the towel. Mr. Hernandez sued the original surgeon and the hospital for unspecified damages, alleging negligence and claiming the number of towels used in the 1988 procedure was deliberately misrepresented in the operating room notes. A judge ruled that the suit was filed too late after the mishap occurred and threw the case out. Last week, however, a state appeals court reinstated the lawsuit. The court ruled that Mr. Hernandez deserved an extension because of his claim that hospital employees kept him from discovering the source of his problem.

Supermarket fined over syringe in bacon

DUBLIN (R) — When an Irish woman bit into her bacon joint, she got part of a hypodermic needle in her mouth. The supermarket chain Dunnes Stores was fined 200 punts ($316.8) at a western Ireland court for selling food unfit for human consumption. The court was told that the needle was of the sort used by farmers to inject their animals.

New camera enables golfers to dissect their swings

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese love fancy cameras and they love to play golf. Now they can devote themselves to the twin national passions at the same time. Fuji Photo Film Co. has begun selling a 16-lens camera that takes 16 pictures in rapid succession, enabling golfers to get a complete record of their swing from start to finish. The 25,000 Yen ($250) camera can adjust its speed depending on the golfer's swing, and it offers a voice-activation feature for those playing by themselves. The shutters click slowly during the backswing, then speed up as the club hits the ball. When the film is developed the 16 pictures are positioned on a single print. Fuji Film spokesman Hiroshi Abe says the company hopes to sell 100,000 of the cameras in its first year. It went on sale two months ago. Would anyone outside of this golf-crazed archipelago buy such a camera? It's hard to say - Fuji Film isn't planning to sell it overseas because it uses a special film that is not widely available outside Japan.